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TODAY

Weismann convicted of attempted murder

RAINE MARCUS

MIRIAM Weissman, the 76-year-old Bat Yam woman accused of strangling her daughter Nathalie in her sleep, was acquitted of premeditated murder yesterday but convicted of attempted murder by Tel Aviv District Court.

Weissman, who was freed on bail by the Supreme Court in November after a year in custody and has continually denied killing her 33-year-daughter, wept after the verdict.

"Look at me!" she said, tearfully. "I am 76 years old. Could I do such a thing? It's impossible! I loved my daughter, she was dear to me. Today is indeed a black day for me. I have received a punishment for nothing."

Weissman will be sentenced on February 21, but her lawyer, Eyal Shomroni-Cohen, said he intends to appeal to the Supreme Court, whatever the sentence is.

Throughout the trial Weissman insisted that Nathalie, the mother of a young daughter, had taken an overdose of some 200 anti-depressant pills. But pathologist Dr. Yehuda Hiss had ruled that suffocation had caused Nathalie's death, and that extensive bruising and scratches were found on her neck.

Shomroni-Cohen brought in expert witnesses from abroad who testified that her death could have been caused by a drug overdose. He also argued that the bruising and scratches were caused by her falling and then trying to strangle herself.

Of the panel of three judges, Judge Sarah Sirotka wanted to acquit Weissman on grounds of reasonable doubt; but Judges Dvora Benfiter and Ze'ev Hammer voted to convict, ruling that she lied and gave contradictory versions of events throughout the trial.

Weissman and her husband, Michael, were arrested after Nathalie, known to suffer from depression, was found dead in her bed in December 1994. They were charged with her premeditated murder by strangling. Last May, Michael Weissman was acquitted by a district court judge on grounds of insufficient evidence.

Yesterday's conviction for attempted murder, which carries a maximum 20-year sentence, is considered a rare verdict, which Shomroni-Cohen said is another reason to appeal.



Workers examine the skeleton of a 2,600-year-old Egyptian child uncovered inside a coffin at the site of a partly built museum 30 km. south of Cairo, which the Egyptian government has decided to remove. (AP)

Navon agrees to head inquiry into Ethiopian grievances

BATSHEVA TSUR

ISRAEL'S fifth president, Yitzhak Navon, yesterday agreed to head the commission of inquiry into the grievances of the Ethiopian community.

The decision to set up the committee was made by Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Sunday, when he met with representatives of the community during the violent demonstration in Jerusalem against the policy of discarding blood donations by Ethiopians.

President Ezer Weizman plans to meet heads of the community today at Beit Hanassi to discuss their problems.

At an emergency meeting in Tel Aviv last night, members of the community condemned "manifestations of discrimination and racism."

They called for the dismissal of four doctors - Amnon Ben-David of the Blood Bank; Amos Luria and Zvi Ben-Yishai of Rambam Hospital; and cardiac surgeon Danny Gur - all accused of taking a discriminatory stand against the community.

Meanwhile, a conference of leading members of the community, including Knesset members, will be called to decide on further action, Messala said.

Messala said he had requested that Peres extend the commission's mandate to include all the major problems facing the community: religious issues, education, and subsidies in the IDF.

Since the publication of the story about the blood being discarded, there have been many cases of depression among community members, Messala said. "Sacred" surgeons condemned.

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Hamas man fatally stabs IDF soldier

Government, IDF place blame on PA for allowing attacker out of Area A

JON IMMANUEL, ON LEVY and DAVID RUDGE

A DEFECTIVE metal detector apparently allowed a Palestinian Hamas member armed with two long kitchen knives to enter the Dotan army camp south of Jenin yesterday, where he stabbed to death St-Sgt. Ehud Tal.

Tal, 21, will be buried today at 3 p.m. at the cemetery on his kibbutz, Maoz Haim.

The IDF Spokesman said the killer, identified as Mahmoud Striyeh, 19, a resident of the Jenin refugee camp, "entered through the main gate of the camp. When he passed the metal detector, the machine emitted a buzz indicating he was carrying a metal object. But when he took his jacket and belt off and passed through the machine a second time, the alarm did not sound."

Striyeh was then allowed to pass into the camp, which houses the civil administration, district coordination and liaison office, police, and troops. Palestinians enter the camp, mainly from villages in area C, to renew various permits.

Tal was preparing coffee in a kitchen when the attacker entered and stabbed him in the back. Tal struggled with him and screamed, receiving a second stab wound in the chest, but alerting his fellow soldiers, who ran to the scene and captured the attacker. But Tal died of his wounds before he could be airlifted to a hospital.

Striyeh was later identified as having been arrested in the past and was not permitted to cross the Green Line, military sources said. He told interrogators he belongs to Hamas and had carried out the attack to escape personal and financial problems.

The army inquiry into the incident will examine why the detector did not spot the knives and why there was no body search. "There was a foul-up," a senior military source said.

The civil administration blamed lax security precautions by reservists for the attack. However, the IDF and several ministers placed much responsibility on the Palestinian Police.

Maj-Gen. Oren Shabor, the government coordinator in the territories, called his Palestinian counterpart, civil affairs negotiator Jamil Tarif, to demand that the Palestinian Police carry out more "preventive operations" to ensure that potential attackers are not allowed out of Area A, where the police have full security control. The Jenin refugee camp, where the killer lived, is in Area A.

"The first thing to note is that it happened in Area C," which is under sole Israeli control, said Brig. Ziad Atrash, the chief Palestinian liaison officer.

Minister for Internal Security Moshe Shahal denounced the attack and said Israel would act aggressively and press the Palestinian Authority to ensure there would be no resumption of terror attacks.

Shahal, who spoke to reporters during a visit to the North yesterday, said there had been a number of problems in the Jenin area since it was handed over to the control of the PA, and these must be solved.

Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr, who was also in the North yesterday, said that although there are still those who oppose the peace process, "the less terror, the more the process can progress. The more terror, then the peace agreements cannot progress."

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who visited the Carmel Park Hai Bar yesterday, also condemned the attack. He noted, however, that the level of terrorism had dropped dramatically in the past few months.

"It has dropped to the extent that even the most ardent opponents of the Oslo 1 and 2 agreements realize that they have no choice but to jump on the bandwagon or the wagon will run them down," said Sarid.

Kibbutz loses 14th soldier

ST-SGT. Ehud Tal, 22, of Kibbutz Maoz Haim, was to have been released in another two months. Tal was the 14th member of the kibbutz to fall in the line of duty.

News of his death reached the kibbutz in the afternoon, while his parents, Yehoshua and Hadassah, were vacationing at the Dead Sea.

Ehud had always dreamed of serving in an elite unit, but a health problem forced him to serve in the military government building in Jenin.

A friend said Ehud had always been a leader in his class while growing up, and enjoyed working in the barn. "He was the one we always relied on and knew would always be in the right place at the right time," said another friend.

"He had an inner peace which radiated a feeling of comfort to all those around him... His death shocked us all... We thought we were done with this, that the boys were being released and it was all over, that we would not run into such things, but unfortunately we were proven wrong."

In addition to his parents, Ehud Tal is survived by two brothers, Eitan and Amichai, and a sister, Ariela. He will be buried tomorrow at the kibbutz. (J.I. and Iim)

Mass grave believed to hold Holocaust victims unearthed

VIENNA (AP) - Construction workers have unearthed what appears to be a mass grave containing the remains of Holocaust victims at the site of a controversial hydropower project, state television reported yesterday.

Two trenches filled with skeletons were discovered during earth-moving work for the power plant near Lambach, about 220 kilometers west of Vienna.

Ecological activists have been trying to prevent the project, claiming it would destroy wildlife and is unnecessary.

Construction work was immediately halted when the skeletons were discovered, but it was not known whether the power project would be stopped.

The remains of six men, classified material, including press accounts, officials said.

It cited four instances of Israeli espionage, including the case of onetime Navy analyst Jonathan Pollard, his successful bid for Israeli citizenship and Israel's unsuccessful appeals for his freedom. Pollard's case continues to reverberate with suggestions of the dual loyalty of American Jews.

The memo also said Israeli agents stole proprietary information from an Illinois optics company in 1986 and test equipment for a radar system in the mid-1980s. And it repeated charges, which were never proven, that Israel may have provided China with jet-fighter technology obtained from the US.

believed aged 20-25, were exhumed, television said. But it was not known how many more skeletons might be in the grave.

The television report said the remains may belong to Hungarian Jews imprisoned at nearby Gunkirchen, a concentration camp that was part of the infamous Mauthausen death camp where thousands of Jews and others were killed by the Nazis during World War II.

However, there was no independent confirmation of the report. Interior Ministry officials were investigating.

The Gunkirchen camp was set up as late as March 1945. When US troops liberated it in May that year, it held about 12,000 emaciated inmates.

According to the report, the camp contained mostly Hungarian Jews brought there in so-called death marches.

Local records show that dozens died daily when a typhoid epidemic spread among inmates in the waning weeks of the war.

Pentagon memo warning against Jews condemned

MARLYN HENRY
NEW YORK

THE Defense Department has repudiated a confidential memorandum to military contractors warning that Israel would "aggressively" try to steal US intelligence secrets, partly by using its "strong ethnic ties" in the United States to obtain information.

The memo was "unfortunate, unofficial and unauthorized," and it does not represent Defense Department policy, Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said.

The memo, written by an unidentified employee of the Defense Investigative Service, was sent to military contractors in the fall.

It was withdrawn in December after senior officials concluded that the author had improperly singled out Jewish ethnicity as a specific counterintelligence concern. The *Washington Post* reported in yesterday's editions.

The confidential memo - a "country counterintelligence profile" on Israel - was first reported in *Moment* magazine and was widely publicized this week by the Anti-Defamation League.

Israel's "recruitment techniques include ethnic targeting, financial aggrandizement, and identification and exploitation of individual frailties" of Americans, the memo said.

"The strong ethnic ties to Israel present in the US, coupled with aggressive and extremely competent intelligence personnel, has resulted in a very pro-

ductive collection effort," said the memo, which was produced in the Syracuse, New York, office of the Defense Investigative Service.

"This is a distressing charge which impugns American Jews and borders on antisemitism," Abraham Foxman, the ADL's national director, wrote in a letter to Defense Secretary William Perry.

Foxman called on the department to "immediately initiate an internal investigation into the matter so as to reprimand those responsible and prevent a similar occurrence in the future." The memo was based on un-

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IAF warplanes blast Hizbullah base north of security zone

ISRAEL Air Force warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Jab'l Shaffi region of south Lebanon yesterday, following the abortive car bomb attack in the security zone on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee the situation in Lebanon is "very troubling" and he fears for the safety of IDF soldiers. He said Sunday's attempted attack shows Hizbullah intends to act against both the South Lebanese Army and the IDF.

The IDF Spokesman said the targets of the air strike were used as bases for Hizbullah activities. The spokesman said the pilots had reported good hits and that all the planes returned safely.

News agencies reporting from

Lebanon said two jets carried out three separate runs at the targets in M'litia village inside 10 minutes and fired six rockets. The reports said the warplanes came under anti-aircraft fire from Lebanese army gunners stationed in the area, but the planes dropped missile-deflecting balloons and were not hit.

There were no immediate reports of any Hizbullah casualties, although Hizbullah gunmen closed off the target area to Lebanese army troops and security forces. The news agency reports said the raid was the first IAF air strike in Lebanon so far this year and that it was seen as retaliation for Sunday's attempted attack.

No organization has so far

DAVID RUDGE AND LIAT COLLINS

claimed responsibility for the abortive car bomb attack, although the incident - in which one or more terrorists were believed to have been killed - had all the hallmarks of being the work of Hizbullah.

Shahak said the premature explosion of the truck appears to have been a "work accident," and had it exploded as planned it could have killed and wounded many people, caused a huge toll in human lives and injuries. The total destruction of the truck is making identification of the terrorist or terrorists involved very difficult but there are signs of at least one body. A revolver with a silencer and a Kalashnikov were also found there.

The rival Amal Shi'ite move-

ment has claimed responsibility for a string of long-range attacks on SLA and IDF positions in the zone this past week. These included a mortar, machine gun and light weapons attack on the SLA's post in Barasheet village, in the zone's western sector early yesterday. The same post came under fire late Monday night. There were no SLA or IDF casualties in either of the incidents, and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Shahak told the Knesset committee that since US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's last visit in the region there had been an increase in cooperation between Hizbullah, Amal and other rejectionist groups. He said Hizbullah apparently aims at bringing about the collapse of the

SLA which would force Israel into choosing between manning the posts the SLA leave or taking other action. Shahak said if the Syrian negotiations stall, Hizbullah will probably carry out as many attacks as possible and "Syria might lack the motivation to stop them."

A senior intelligence officer told the committee Hizbullah is seeking new channels through which it can receive arms and ammunition, including via Turkey, on the assumption that there might be a policy change in the region which could rule out the Syrian route. Shahak said that in 1995, 23 IDF soldiers fell in the northern sector and 86 were wounded, 29 SLA soldiers fell and 67 were wounded, while some 100 terrorists were killed and 74 wounded.

NEWSLINE with URI LUBRANI

Uri Lubrani is government coordinator on Lebanon. Were the recent abortive attacks - Sunday's car bomb and the killing of four members of Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-GC on a terror mission - reminders that south Lebanon is far from calm?

Absolutely. We have been led to believe that there is a degree of reduction in the level of operations against us, but there is nothing of the sort. Instead it's a combination of [ongoing] operations that were either preempted or intercepted and stopped, or operations which misfired by sheer luck, as in the car bomb attack.

Are the Syrians really trying to calm the situation in south Lebanon and if so why aren't they succeeding?

They say that they have been trying. I would say that if they have been trying they have not been trying hard enough. If they really set their minds on doing so they could. I have no doubt about it.

Do you know who was behind the attempted car bomb attack and whether any terrorists were killed when it exploded prematurely?

I have no doubt that this was the work of Hizbullah. To the best of my knowledge, there was someone in the car if not more than one person.

What can Israel do that it has not done already to reassure the SLA and residents of the zone that they won't be abandoned in the event of a peace accord with Syria and Lebanon?

What the prime minister said the other day when he met with [SLA commander] Gen. Antoine Lahad is a clear statement of our policy which his predecessor, the late Yitzhak Rabin laid down. There are two basic conditions: Nothing will change our deployment in the security zone without us being totally sure that the military capabilities of Hizbullah and the other terrorist organizations have been dismantled. We also have to be guaranteed, in the most absolute way, that Lebanese residents of the security zone, including members of the SLA and their dependents, will not be harassed, molested or penalized because they have lived in the security zone for the past decade.

Are these Israel's red lines in any future peace negotiations with Lebanon?

In my mind, absolutely, yes.

David Rudge

Tibi: Covenant will be changed before the elections

THE articles in the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's destruction will be changed before Israel's elections, even if they are moved up, Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi yesterday told a group of senior officers at the IDF's National Defense College.

Tibi appeared before a receptive audience of dozens of officers, together with Mohammed Darwish, head of the Islamic Movement. He said that, on the one hand, the dates for changing the covenant are "not holy," but on the other, the commitment of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat under Oslo 2 requires them to be abrogated.

"But you shouldn't stand there holding a stopwatch," said Tibi, adding it is likely the abrogation of the covenant will take place slightly after the agreed date.

Tibi responded to a Likud demand for an explanation as to why he had been invited to address the college by saying the time has come for the Likud to change its approach and act in accord with the changes in the Middle East. He pointed out that the abrogation of the covenant before the elections would deprive the Likud of ammunition it was expecting to use to attack the government and the Oslo agreements.

"I very much enjoyed appearing before the National Defense College," said Tibi, adding that he has already been invited back for a second appearance. (Iim)

Special groups to broadcast on cable TV

From now on homosexual, lesbian, human rights, and other special interest organizations may broadcast on public access cable TV, the Communications Ministry announced yesterday.

Cables Council chairman Michal Rafaehi-Caduri said the local channels provide a democratic forum for every community. "There is no reason to block any legitimate expression of the ideas, culture, and concerns of any organization, provided they keep within Bezeq regulations."

Helen Kaye



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat poses with Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson (right) and Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hielm-Wallen in Stockholm yesterday, where he called on Sweden to help negotiate the future status of Jerusalem. "We are in need of your help. I am saying it bluntly and openly," Arafat said.

Ofra resident 'mistakenly' detained by Palestinian police

AN Ofra resident was detained by Palestinian policemen in Ramallah for an hour yesterday, the second time in five days that Israelis have been detained in an autonomous Palestinian area.

Nissim Erez, a private contractor, was transporting four Romanian construction workers from Jerusalem to his settlement, near Ramallah, when a car with blue license plates signaled him to pull over and stop.

"When I pulled over," Erez said, "two men in civilian clothes got out of the car, along with another person wearing a Palestinian Police hat." Erez said the men, armed with Kalashnikov rifles, took his identification papers, as well as a pistol, and told him to follow them to a Palestinian Police station.

Last Thursday, an Israeli couple who mistakenly drove into the Palestinian village of Dura in the Hebron Hills was detained for

over three hours by Palestinian policemen, before being released. Shortly after Erez was detained, the Palestinian policemen pulled over another Ofra resident, Meir Kahane, this time near Ramallah's southern exit. Soldiers at an IDF checkpoint nearby saw what transpired, and immediately went to the site and had Kahane released.

According to Erez, the Palestinian policemen told him that Israelis are not allowed to drive through Ramallah without approval from the Palestinian Authority, and that carrying a weapon is certainly forbidden. Erez, a lieutenant-colonel in the reserves who is well versed with the details of the Oslo agreements, said Israelis are allowed to drive in the autonomous areas and carry licensed weapons.

He said that before he agreed to

follow the men to station, one of policemen trained a gun on him, and started to load it.

Erez waited at the police station for 50 minutes, and said the police treated him "well," even offering him and the workers he was with tea and coffee, though the Palestinians were fasting because of Ramadan. Finally, Gen. Abdul Abed, from the Palestinian liaison office at the DCO in Ramallah, came to release him. Erez said that Abed apologized, admonished the policemen responsible for the arrest, and gave him back his pistol and papers.

Pinhas Wallerstein, head of the Binjamin Regional Council which neighbors Ramallah, called an emergency session of the regional council with the IDF commanders in the area last night to discuss ways to deal with sim-

ilar incidents in the future. "We can tolerate the agreement," Wallerstein said, "but we can't tolerate violations of the agreement."

Liati Collins adds Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that under the agreements with the Palestinians, Israeli citizens with licenses are free to carry the weapons with them wherever they travel in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

He also said the Palestinian Police may not detain any Israelis or confiscate their weapons unless they have carried out a serious crime, and even then may only detain them until a joint Israeli-Palestinian patrol arrives.

He said yesterday's incident was a deviation from the agreement which should be dealt with accordingly.

New 'five-star' prison opened in Galilee

THE new Tzalmot Prison, which has been described as being more like a five-star hotel than a jail, was officially opened in the Galilee yesterday.

The ultra-sophisticated facility, which cost over NIS 120 million to construct and equip, is situated on a

170-dunam plot in a scenic part of the Galilee not far from the Druse village Mughar.

The jail, which has a reception desk and hall not unlike those found in modern hotels, has a total of six wings and is designed to hold

720 medium risk prisoners, with a staff of 220 warders and other personnel, including social workers, teachers and medical experts.

The prison, described as one of the most modern in the world, has already become the flagship of the Prisons Service. It has its own hospital, with an intensive care unit as well as X-ray and dental laboratories, and is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment.

All prisoners are obliged to work in the framework of the jail, and must take job training and educational enrichment courses designed to help them find jobs on their release.

Minister for Internal Security Moshe Shalom and Prisons Service Commissioner Arye Bibi aimed to develop a facility which would combine punishment with rehabilitation. Nevertheless, Bibi, who like Shahal participated in the opening ceremony, noted that no matter how golden a cage may be, it remains a cage.

Peres to brief Major on London visit

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres will hold talks with British counterpart John Major in London today, before making a scheduled address to Britain's Joint Israel Appeal this evening.

A British diplomat said he expects the talks to be routine, since bilateral ties are good. He said Peres would brief Major and British Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind on the current talks with Syria, as well as the Palestinian track following the recent elections in the territories.

When pressed, the diplomat said he thinks it likely that Peres would "put down a marker" and say that,

should a breakthrough with Damascus occur, Britain may be asked to be part of an international consortium to provide assistance for Syria.

The diplomat said it is unclear whether such assistance would be debt relief or include other forms of aid, such as infrastructure projects and private sector development.

After his London meeting, Peres is to fly to Switzerland to participate in the annual Davos-based World Economic Forum, which brings together leaders of government and the business community to discuss economic trends.

Year of Zionism begins in September

A year-long celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the first Zionist Congress will begin in September, when the government announces the Year of Zionism, Rami Kornblum, director-general of the organization department of the World Zionist Organization, said yesterday.

Greer Fay Cashman

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SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Nira Koran-David will speak on "The Internet Revolution."

CORRECTION

The name of one of the Israel Prize winners in Hebrew language, literature and Jewish languages is Professor Shmeruk, and not as published in yesterday's paper.

OBITUARY NOTICES

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Surgeon rebuked for remarks on Ethiopians

"THE remarks by [Prof. Danny] Gur deviate from any ethical standard and I assume they will draw appropriate responses, both from the Health Ministry and the medical association," Prof. Eran Dolev, head of the ethics committee of the Israel Medical Association, said yesterday. He was condemning Gur's televised remarks about the Ethiopian population and alleged dangers in treating its members.

Gur said on Channel 1's *Popolitica* program Sunday night that if an Ethiopian child were brought to him, he would operate on him immediately, but added: "If I were asked whether I am prepared to operate on patients from groups which pose a danger, I would try to get out of it, because I am afraid."

Dolev said he was shocked at Gur's remarks, which would be discussed at the next meeting of the medical ethics committee. Gur will be given a chance to appear before the committee to explain himself.

Dolev said the medical profession has many inherent dangers, and that doctors are aware of the risks they face, especially in the era of AIDS. However, doctors also have a great amount of responsibility in treating patients.

"It is inconceivable that we not give everyone the treatment they need when they need it, based on our own ability and skill," he said.

He added that doctors face dangers in other areas as well, but it is inconceivable that a doctor would not treat wounded on a battlefield just because he was also in danger.

Sheba Hospital officials refused to allow Gur to speak with reporters, but the hospital director issued a statement saying: "A surgeon who refuses to treat every person in need of help will be immediately suspended and brought up on charges." He said Gur would be judged "not by his media comments, but by his actions." (Itim)

Law prevents gov't bodies from accessing 'inaccurate' criminal data

GOVERNMENT bodies will not be able to get information from the criminal registry on cases which have been open for more than a certain number of years, according to regulations approved by the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

The regulations are meant to prevent people from suffering the consequences of widespread inaccuracies in the registry, caused by the fact that it is not updated regularly. As a result, many cases which are either closed without an indictment being filed or in which the suspect is later acquitted in court remain in the registry, as open cases. This can prevent people from getting a job, prevent them from entering the country, or have various other

serious consequences.

According to figures given the committee, 265,859 cases opened between 1990 and 1995 are still listed on the criminal registry as open, despite the fact that only 72,553 of these are still under investigation. The remainder have been sent on to prosecutors for review. In addition, there are still 9,175 open cases from 1966-1988.

The police blame this on the prosecutors, saying prosecutors do not inform them when cases are either closed without an indictment or concluded in court.

The committee therefore decided that none of the bodies normally authorized to get information from the criminal registry

will be given this information about felony cases which have been open for four years or more without an indictment being filed, or about misdemeanor files which have been open for three years or more with no indictment. For minors, the limit will be three years for felonies and one year for misdemeanors.

A few select groups, such as the committee on appointing judges, will be able to receive information from the registry even after these dates, the committee decided. However, there will also be groups for whom the time limit is even stricter: Three years for felonies and two for misdemeanors for adults, and two years for felonies and one for misdemeanors for minors.

Acre residents vow to keep fighting resettlement of collaborators

JEWISH and Arab residents of Acre vowed yesterday to intensify their campaign against the resettlement of collaborators from the territories in the city.

The pledge was made after Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr urged Acre's residents to drop their opposition to the move and quietly help those who had helped save the lives of many Israelis.

Protest demonstrations were

held all over the city during Orr's visit yesterday. In a meeting with Mayor Eli De Castro, Orr stressed that the collaborators and their families were being resettled in many places throughout the country, not just Acre.

Some residents, however, maintained that the distribution was not equal or fair and that there had been no reports of such

families being resettled in north Tel Aviv.

De Castro warned that tempers were running high in the city over the issue and that both Jewish and Arab residents were opposed to the newcomers.

He stressed that Acre had enough problems without adding to the burden, and that the issue could upset the harmonious but delicate relationship between Jews and Arabs.

Real estate agents now need licenses

REAL estate agents will now have to receive a license from the Justice Ministry, according to a law passed by the Knesset this week.

The legislation was sponsored by MKs Avraham Poraz (Meretz) and Haggai Merom (Labor). Poraz said the law will raise the level of real estate agents, who will have to prove themselves in order to receive a license.

He said new immigrants have been exposed to fraudulent and manipulative real estate agents, and the courts have had no power to prevent such agents from continuing to work in the field.

Merom said the law would protect the public from unscrupulous dealers.

Under the new law, real estate agents will have to pass a set of examinations on contract, land, building and planning and tax laws. Exemptions can be granted to agents above age 60 or with a full academic background.

Although the law passed by a large majority, it was opposed by former Justice Minister Dan Meridor (Likud) and the chairman of the Knesset Law Committee, Dedi Zucker (Meretz).

'Country needs more technology graduates'

TECHNOLOGICAL education produces only 1,000 young graduates a year, a number that does not meet the minimum demands of industry and the Israel Defense Forces, said Elisha Yanai, managing director of Motorola Communications-Israel, at the annual convention of the Information Technology Association of Israel in Jerusalem yesterday.

"We must address youth in their language. They all know what the NBA [National Basketball Association] represents in the US: quality and excellence. Our young people must know that Israeli high-tech industry is in the world's NBA league and is ready to accept thousands of promising young people at the

start of their professional careers." The electronics industry here produces NIS 6 billion worth of goods a year, two-thirds of it for export, said Yanai.

A main event on the third day of the conference tomorrow will be the arrival of 3,000 outstanding high school pupils who study advanced mathematics, physics, and technology. They will meet with leaders of the economy, industry, and education and tour the computer exhibition that accompanies the convention, whose theme is "Information Technology - the Gate to the 21st Century." The exhibition is open free to the public today from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Animal Rights Day celebrated

EVEN dogs and cats had their day yesterday as the country celebrated Animal Rights' Day with special television and radio programs, information booths, petitions calling for increased animal welfare and a special Knesset discussion on the subject.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid marked the day by releasing two rare wild deer in the Carmel nature reserve and signing a new law which will allow seven animal welfare groups to file cruelty charges on behalf of private citizens.

MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz), a supporter of animal rights and the initiator of the Anti-Cruelty to Animals Law, said the Knesset event was aimed at raising awareness and preventing animal suffering. *Liat Collins*



Albanian President Sali Berisha visits the Valley of Destroyed Communities at Yad Vashem yesterday, pausing at the names of Albanian cities whose Jewish populations were lost in the Holocaust. (Isaac Harari)

Chazan leaves Knesset session after Merom refuses to discuss NII motion

MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) stormed out of yesterday's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting after chairman Haggai Merom (Labor) refused to discuss an urgent motion to the agenda on the National Insurance Institute decision not to pay demobilization grants to Arab girls and Jewish men who complete national voluntary service instead of military service.

The decision was later rescinded by order of Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir. Merom said he had refused to accept the motion because it does not

relate to the committee's work.

Chazan said the NII's initial decision violated an amendment to the National Service Law. "It is direct discrimination against Jewish and Arab citizens and scores a direct hit against the principle of equality," Chazan said.

She said it raised the need for a Civilian Service Law to be registered alongside the military service law.

Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan said he would raise his national

service bill for the second time today. Eitan called for mandatory service in either the military or civilian sector for all citizens.

"As long as there is mandatory national military service, all citizens should be obliged to serve in some form without distinction of sex, race or religion. It's inconceivable that while some serve in the army others are using the time to study at universities. It is manifestly unfair."

Eitan said if mandatory military service were ever canceled, his national service law could be rescinded.

Woman killed in Ashdod fire

AN Ashdod woman was killed and her son seriously burned when a fire broke out early yesterday in an eight-story building in the city. Twenty-five residents suffered from smoke inhalation.

At about 5 a.m. the fire began in a circuit breaker box on the first floor of the building, apparently when a short circuit occurred, fire officials said. However, one resident said she suspected the fire was caused by drug addicts smoking in the storage rooms.

Interior Minister Haim Ramon has instructed Fire and Rescue Commissioner Uri Manos to launch an inquiry into the blaze.

The fire spread from the box to an adjacent storage room, from where it spread upwards to other storage rooms throughout the building. Doors to apartments also caught fire.

Tamra Gingashvili, 36, was killed when she ran out of her apartment with one of her children, five-year-old Gavriel, although her husband had warned her not to open the door. Thick smoke and flames burst into the apartment and the rest of the family stayed near the porch windows.

Firefighters then arrived on the scene and began removing people from the building via the windows. They took control of the blaze that had spread to the stairwells and went up to the apartment's upper floors.

However, when they arrived at the third floor they found Gingashvili dead. Her son had managed to flee to safety on the upper floors, but was suffering from third-degree burns. Doctors at Tel Hashomer's Sheba Hospital said he was in critical but stable condition.

Most of the residents of the building are new immigrants who rent through the Amigur company. Fire department officials said the building is old and its electricity network faulty. "There is no doubt that old buildings were not built to today's standards," said National Fire Department Commissioner Ephraim Ma'aravi. (Itim)

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COVENANT OVER MIDDLE EASTERN WATERS

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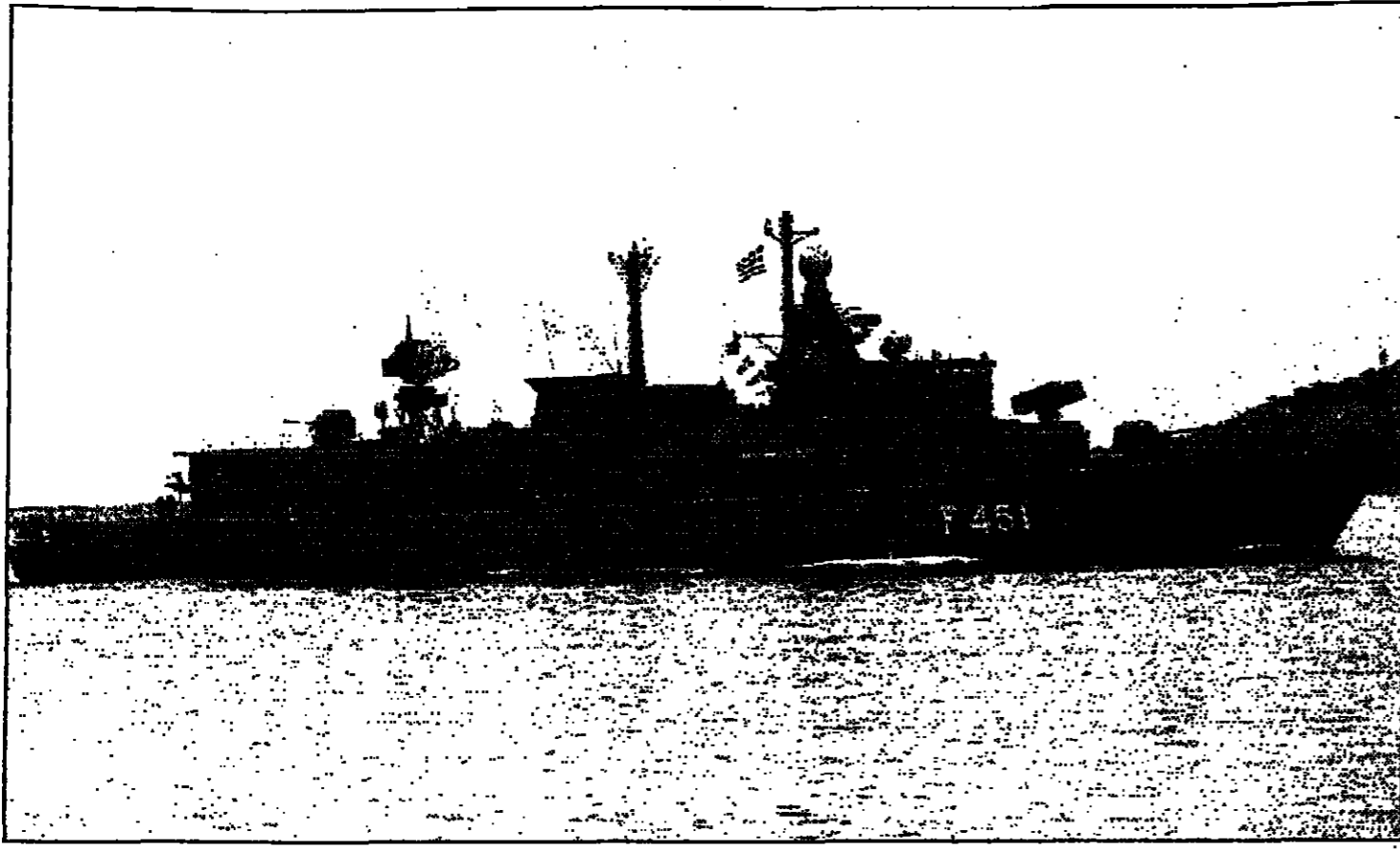
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A Greek frigate leaves the Salamina naval base off the port of Piraeus, bound for the eastern Aegean island. Greece and Turkey called on each other to pull back rival warships around the disputed island yesterday.

Greek, Turk warships in standoff over Aegean island

WARSHIPS from Turkey and Greece yesterday warily circled a rocky, east Aegean island, which the two NATO members claim. Each side demanded the other pull back from the area, but with no sign of either doing so.

In Ankara, the Greek ambassador was summoned to the foreign ministry where Turkey called "for the immediate withdrawal of Greek ships" from around the uninhabited rock island.

In Athens, Defense Minister Gerassimos Arsenis said: "We do not want escalation of the crisis. If the other side is sincere and also wants de-escalation, it should remove its (military) presence from the area, from our waters, from our airspace."

Arsenis charged that a Turkish frigate and helicopter had violated Greek air and sea space in the vicinity of the deserted islet of Imia, and had been warned off by Greek forces in the early morning.

"The islet of Imia is Greek and it is the responsibility of the armed forces to defend Greek territory, and they are in a position to defend it," Arsenis told reporters.

"The armed forces are in full readiness to deal with any threat against Greek territory," he said.

News agencies
ATHENS

"We will deal with the crisis with responsibility and self-control," Turkish Foreign Minister Deniz Baykal told parliament Greece "has put nine commandos on the Kardak rocks."

"There is no legal document that gives them the right to do so," Greek officials said that they had 12 ships in the area, and television showed more vessels - from frigates to submarines - heading out of Greek ports for the region.

Moscow said it was worried about the possible explosive consequences of tensions over the disputed islet, known by Greece as Imia and by Turkey as Karbak.

The rock, uninhabited except for goats and rabbits, lies between the Turkish coast and the Greek island of Kalymnos.

"We cannot but be worried about the situation in such a delicate and explosive region as the eastern Mediterranean," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigory Karasin told a news briefing.

In Athens, Arsenis said Turkey had a MEKO-class frigate, two missile patrol boats and two

ordinary patrol boats near the island and another frigate further off.

The conflict began last week after the captain of a Turkish ship that ran aground on the rock refused to let a Greek help, saying the territory was Turkish.

Since then, Turks and Greeks have planted their own country's flag there, ripping down those of their rivals.

Greece's blue and white striped standard now flies over the outcrop and officials said Greek soldiers were on the island and guarding the flag.

A Turkish foreign ministry statement called on the Greek troops "based on the Kardak rocks to be immediately recalled and for all signs that attempt to prove Greek sovereignty to be immediately removed."

Caretaker Prime Minister Tansu Ciller vowed the Greek flag would not stay. "We can't let a foreign flag fly on Turkish soil. The flag will come down," she said.

But she called for a negotiated settlement to the row.

Greece's new Prime Minister Costas Simitis, who took office this month, earlier issued a warning to Ankara that Greece would not hesitate to defend the island.

Bosnian women attack Red Cross offices

News agencies
TUZLA

BOSNIAN police secured Red Cross offices yesterday after Muslim women demanding word of missing family members attacked aid workers and ransacked the building.

"We understand their anger and fully agree with them," Laurent Felley, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross mission to this northeast Bosnian town, said yesterday. "But violent acts are of no use."

Several hundred women refugees from Srebrenica, where up to 8,000 men disappeared after the Muslim enclave fell to Bosnian Serb forces last July, demonstrated outside the Red Cross offices in a desperate bid for information.

When Red Cross workers emerged to talk with them, the women stormed the offices.

"I had to stop the dialogue yesterday, because chairs and all the projectiles were thrown at me," Felley said yesterday. Police arrived and forced the women out of the building.

Yesterday, about 150 women and children gathered outside the building, weeping and wailing.

Felley met with a delegation of 10 women yesterday morning, and agreed to meet with them and Bosnian government representatives tomorrow.

Meanwhile, preparations to set up a new political structure in Bosnia in accordance with the Dayton peace agreement were going ahead in Sarajevo yesterday with two new governments due to be elected.

The Bosnian parliament was due to meet to choose a new central government for the post-war state, one whose remit will include foreign affairs, international trade and justice.

The parliament of the Muslim-Croat federation - one of two new internal "entities" set up under the agreement - was also due to choose a government to run domestic affairs in its part of Bosnia. The second "entity" is for the Bosnian Serbs.

Under the agreement thrashed out in Dayton, Ohio, in November, the Bosnian Serbs will eventually get at least one-third of the posts in the new central government, after nationwide elections to be held by September.

China warns Taiwan not to promote independence

BEIJING (AP) - Chinese Premier Li Peng yesterday revived a year-old proposal for courting Taiwan, while warning the island not to use its March presidential election to promote independence.

Li offered no concessions for easing Taiwan-China tensions, now at their worst in about a decade. Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian made it clear Beijing was waiting for Taiwan to "renounce any actions aimed at splitting the motherland."

But the premier also did not put forward a timetable for reunifying China with the island it considers a rebel province. Hong Kong media reported Li would, citing a senior Chinese official in charge of dealing with Taiwan.

Taiwanese feared the schedule would really be an ultimatum to join the mainland or fight its military. Taiwan's stock exchange dropped 169 points, 3.48 percent, Monday, but rebounded 111.5 points yesterday after Li's speech.

Li spoke at a ceremony in Beijing's Great Hall of the People to mark the anniversary of Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin's eight-point proposal for reunification.

A year ago, Taiwanese leaders responded coolly to Jiang's call and instead continued to engage in international diplomacy to raise the island's separate status.

Frustrated by the rebuff and by Taiwan President

Lee Teng-hui's visit to the United States in June - a first by a Taiwanese president - Beijing canceled talks with Taiwan, repeated threats to retake it by force and held a series of military exercises and missile tests near the island.

Although Li restated Jiang's appeal to end hostility, he did not renew the party chief's invitation to Taiwan leaders to visit China, nor did he urge high-level talks.

Li indicated those would have to wait until Beijing was satisfied Taiwan was not pursuing independence. He threatened Beijing would use force to recover Taiwan if it declares independence or if "any foreign anti-Chinese power" encourages it to do so.

Li also restated that elections on Taiwan will not alter its status as a part of China.

"It will lead nowhere if some people attempt to use the change of Taiwan leaders as an excuse to put their separatist activities in a legal guise," he said.

Taiwan rebuffed Li's remarks about presidential elections and called on Beijing to resume semi-official talks with Taipei.

"The presidential election follows request of public opinion and the world trend, and it has nothing to do with Taiwan independence," said Kao Koong-lian, acting chairman of the cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council.

Fire destroys landmark Venice opera house

VENICE (AP) - A fire gutted the opera house La Fenice, a 204-year-old jewel that was one of Italy's greatest artistic institutions and scene of the premieres of Verdi's *Rigoletto* and *La Traviata*.

Hours after the blaze was put out, smoke continued to pour from the opera house's marble facade. Charred beams leaned crazily against the interior shell. Fire tubes snaked along the alleyways from nearby canals.

News media quoted officials as

saying damage could be as high as 300 billion lire (NIS 560 million). The government said it would immediately turn over 20 billion lire (NIS 37.5 million) for repairs.

"We've lost the best thing of Venice," said Albino Strighetta, a gondolier. "The people of Venice are completely demoralized."

One firefighter was slightly injured. The artistic company was in Warsaw at the start of a long-awaited international tour. They immediately returned to inspect

the devastation of the theater, near the Grand Canal a five minute walk from St. Mark's Square.

Authorities did not immediately say what the cause might be. Newspapers said a short-circuit may have set off the blaze.

Mayor Massimo Cacciari said that work was being done on the electrical system on an upper level, where the fire is believed to have broken out.

He also said the old fire protection system had been deactivated while a new one was being installed. "The surveillance wasn't enough," the mayor told a news conference yesterday. But "there couldn't be a guard for every room and every box of La Fenice."

The building, closed in August for repairs, was to reopen in March with a performance of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and a jazz concert by Woody Allen. Local officials said part of the work involved an anti-fire system.

Britain bluntly rejects Sinn Fein demands

BELFAST (Reuters) - Britain yesterday bluntly rejected demands from Sinn Fein, the IRA's political arm, that it scrap a proposal for elections in Northern Ireland in favor of immediate all-party talks.

"No, the answer to that is no," Britain's minister for the province, Sir Patrick Mayhew, told reporters after talks with Sinn Fein head Gerry Adams called at short notice to try to calm nationalist anger over Britain's election proposal.

At the 75-minute meeting Adams urged Mayhew to drop the idea, which was put forward last week to the annoyance of the Dublin government.

Sinn Fein says elections are a further device by London to stall the group's involvement in talks aimed at turning 17-month truces by rival guerrilla groups into a permanent peace.

Adams also said it was unrealistic to expect the IRA to hand in their huge caches of weapons before such talks. Britain says rival guerrillas, who fought for 25 years over the future of British rule, must disarm to prove their commitment to peace.

China cracks down on Nazi mementos

BEIJING (Reuters) - Police have shut down a Beijing business that state television said was selling replicas of Nazi swastika medals, flags, gas masks, helmets, clothing and other Third Reich military items - "everything but weapons."

German diplomats in Beijing were caught by surprise by the evening news broadcast, saying Nazi revivalism was virtually unheard of in China.

"This is worrying," one diplomat said yesterday. "This must mean there is a wider problem or they (the government) would not be reporting it so widely. They would be keeping it quiet."

"In China it's crazy," the diplomat added. "You always have a few nuts in the US and Canada, but here? It's weird."

State television quoted police as saying promotion of Nazi goods and Fascist ideology was "seriously illegal behavior."

Spokesman Mark Reggev of the Israeli embassy said Israel supported China's anti-Nazi efforts.

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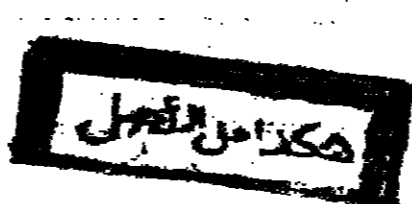
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Palestinians speculate on their political future

LAMIA LAHOUD

PALESTINIANS may agree that their elections were the start of a new political future, but two weeks after the poll there is still widespread confusion over the exact functions of the elected Palestinian Authority council, and over just how many ministers will be appointed.

Political sources say Yasser Arafat will meet over Ramadan with individual council members, but will convene the council officially only after the holy month when he will appoint his cabinet. The council would then elect its president.

Originally, the cabinet was slated to be 24-strong, plus the leader himself, but PA officials say Arafat may appoint up to 30 ministers to satisfy everybody.

Ahmed Edik, the elected Fatah candidate for the Safit district, said that while Arafat will appoint all ministers, election law says 80 percent of the cabinet must be chosen from within the elected council and it must be approved by the council. But he was unsure whether the council could in theory veto Arafat's choice.

Most of the former Palestinian Authority ministers who ran for election won except for Zakaria Agha from Gaza and Abdel Afif Ashab from Hebron. Arafat will probably reappoint the winners and then choose the rest after discussions with council members, a PA official said.

Arafat can appoint 20 percent of the cabinet from outside the council. Edik said Palestinians disagree on whom he might choose.

He could give these seats to members of the PLO Executive Committee, or offer one or two seats to Hamas moderates, a PA official said. But Fatah activists do not think he can give cabinet seats to Hamas members who did not take part in the elections.

Edik said Arafat might appoint one or two of the few elected Hamas sympathizers on the council, rather than take Hamas people from outside it.

Most Fatah activists agree that Arafat has no obligation to include any Hamas people, since the organization boycotted the poll.

"Had they participated and lost, he could probably invite them to join the government. Since they didn't, Arafat doesn't need to

offer them anything," one PA official said.

All agree that Hamas and other opposition groups suffered a convincing defeat. In Hebron, Hamas distributed leaflets house-to-house thanking people for not running as candidates and urging them not to vote. Yet over 75 percent of the voters turned out anyway.

"They wanted to boycott the PA, but in fact they boycotted the will of the people," one official said.

Edik himself believes the military wing of Hamas has been weakened and that Hamas will now attempt to form a party to participate in the political process.

Hamas leaders have decided to run for municipal elections in March and is encouraging its people to take civil service jobs in the Palestinian administration, he said.

Edik, a local Fatah activist, was deported in 1988 and returned after Oslo 1. He is married to the daughter of the assassinated FLO No. 2, Abu Jihad.

He sees the election results as a clear vote of confidence for the peace process. The fact that all Fatah candidates on Arafat's list who came from abroad were elected he saw as a sign that the voters trust their efforts in the negotiations.

During the election campaign local Fatah activists had mocked the chances of those coming from outside. They were dubbed *olim hadashim* (Hebrew for "new immigrants"), and many local Fatah candidates running independently resented Arafat including the newcomers rather than themselves on his list.

The results reassured PA members who came from abroad and who had been involved in the negotiations that they had won the trust of the people, said PA Maj-Gen. Abdel Razak al-Yahiya. Yahiya headed the Palestinian delegation to the security talks in Oslo 1 and 2 and co-chairs the Israeli-Palestinian committee supervising redeployment.

Yahiya said Arafat and the autonomy agreement will now receive backing from within the council, since many PLO members involved in the negotiations are on it. They are also expected to be involved in the final status negotiations.

Peres, Arafat still balk over Hamas

ANALYSIS
PINHAS INBARI

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met immediately after the Palestinian elections. It was not difficult to guess the topics on the agenda - convening the Palestinian National Council to change its charter, and containing Hamas.

After Arafat's landslide in the elections, he should now be more relaxed about summoning the PNC. Before, he was wary of so doing since it was the only body with the potential authority to depose him.

Now that he has been seen to be chosen by the Palestinians in an alternative way, one that undermines the legitimacy of the PNC, the former "parliament in exile" is rapidly becoming obsolete.

What remains is the question of whether there is a sufficient majority in the PNC to amend the Covenant.

The elections demonstrated that

fully democratic procedures are not exactly the strongest attribute of the Palestinian Authority, and Arafat could easily nominate a "correct" composition of the new PNC to enable it to carry out the amendment.

The second item on the Arafat-Peres agenda - Hamas - is the bigger problem. The election turnout did little to comfort Hamas. The high number of voters who spurned its call for a boycott proved that Hamas had lost the street to the PA, especially in its old hotbed, Gaza. The Gaza voters ignored the boycott which was underscored by the Hamas leaders' decision not to run.

The Palestinians in the territories accepted the Oslo agreements and rejected the Hamas program. Peres undoubtedly emphasized this analysis to Arafat in his demand to fight Hamas terrorism.

Of course the real question is, did Hamas reach the same conclu-

sion, and is the movement any more ready to lay down its weapons after the elections than it was before?

Two conflicting messages came from Hamas. In Amman, the "exiled" politburo announced that the elections were a fraud and illegitimate. But a day later the "internal" Hamas leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, congratulated Arafat on his victory.

This indicates that the internal conflict within Hamas remains unchanged. The politburo refuses to reach agreement with Arafat to call off terrorism and join the peace process, while the internal leaders are ready to join the PA, and let Arafat handle the negotiations with Israel.

The high turnout in Gaza strengthened the position of the

internal Hamas leadership against that outside the territories, since their analysis had proved to be correct - Gazans would not be inclined to comply with the boycott call and hence it would be better for Hamas to participate.

But the problem is that the Izzadin el-Kassam brigades take orders from the politburo - not from Sheikh Yassin.

Peres would be keen to investigate with Arafat whether, under his influence, the internal leaders are ready to agree to a *hudna* (cease-fire).

Israel might facilitate this by freeing Sheikh Yassin. A Hamas cease-fire would be a striking achievement for Peres to deliver in an Israeli election year.

Yet the serious question remains whether a call for *hudna*, even by Sheikh Yassin, would be obeyed by Izzadin el-Kassam. It should be remembered how the militants have ignored the sheikh's calls for

them to show mercy to kidnapped IDF soldiers in the past.

The conflicting Hamas responses to the Palestinian elections confirmed that nothing has changed. At the heart of the dispute between Sheikh Yassin's people and the politburo are attitudes to Arafat. Sheikh Yassin is ready to accept him but the external leaders are not.

If a cease-fire is a top Peres priority, these hardliners may insist that he approach them directly without Arafat's mediation or involvement. On the other hand, Sheikh Yassin will refrain from talking to the Israelis, leaving the job to Arafat.

The Hamas internal conflict could transform a *hudna* proclamation into an exit ceremony for the whole organization. But the indications are that the external Hamas hardliners are not done proving that they still call the shots.



PA head Yasser Arafat meets with Jordanian Prime Minister Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday in his first visit to Jordan since he was elected president. The meeting was held shortly before Arafat left for Sweden. (AP)

Cairo law offends liberals, militants

The Egyptian government, wavering between liberals and Moslem fundamentalists, has stirred up a hornet's nest with a law designed to stop the fundamentalists imposing their social agenda through the courts.

But it has seriously backfired, leaving liberals enraged and the government with egg on its face.

The issue at stake is the right of individuals to harass their ideological rivals through the courts on behalf of society as a whole.

The law gives the public prosecutor's office the right to vet such suits before they reach courts which deal with family law.

In a famous case, fundamentalist vigilantes last year persuaded the courts to separate prominent academic Nasr Abu Zaid from his wife against their will, because his writings made him an apostate.

Egyptian cartoonists had a ball with the issue this week. In one cartoon, the sports minister asks a bearded Moslem militant sheikh to apply to the courts for a divorce between Egypt's national football team and its foreign manager.

The cartoon in *al-Akhar* newspaper was one of several poking fun at fundamentalists who have used the legal procedure, known by the technical Arabic term *hisba* (proxy or guardianship).

But liberals said the government had made matters worse by introducing the term *hisba* into the draft. Intellectuals and human rights groups said the government was humoring the Moslem fanatics through what they called halfhearted amendments.

But one of the most litigious fundamentalists, former member of parliament Youssef al-Badri, also criticized the draft. "If a man rapes a woman doesn't he get punished by the state? If one citizen kills another, doesn't he get punished? So why is it, when someone insults Islam, he gets away with it?" Badri said.

Saeed al-Ashnawi, a former judge, said: "The draft law is very bad. By this procedure, the legislator is compromising with the militants and giving them a legal instrument to threaten and intimidate society, mainly writers, artists and thinkers." (Reuters)

Accords raise fears of Lebanon-Syria union

NEWS AGENCIES

BEIRUT

Cooperation accords signed over the weekend between Lebanon and neighboring Syria have stoked fears among some Lebanese that Syria might be contemplating a union.

"Beware of the dreams of coordination and union," wrote Ghassan Tueni, the outspoken publisher of Lebanon's prestigious independent *An-Nahar* daily.

Such dreams could "be shattered on the rocks of freedom and reality," he wrote in a front-page editorial published Monday.

Raymond Ede, a Maronite Catholic opposition leader, echoed similar sentiments in an article in *An-Nahar*, calling on the Lebanese to peacefully confront what he called the "crime of agreements."

"Lebanon's independence and sovereignty are in danger. Syria's dream has always been to achieve unity at Lebanon's expense in order to create Greater Syria," wrote Ede, a harsh critic of Syrian policies in Lebanon who has lived in exile in France since 1976.

Presidents Elias Hrawi of Lebanon and Hafez Assad of Syria signed four accords in Damascus over the weekend.

They cover investment, taxation, social cooperation and provide for the establishment of joint border posts.

The two Arab states are already bound by a Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation and Coordination signed in 1991. Syria has 40,000 troops stationed in Lebanon. It is the undisputed political power in Lebanon and oversees the country's domestic and foreign policies.

Assad, however, has repeatedly stated that he had no wish to force a union with Lebanon, parts of which were under Syrian control until the present century.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who heads a pro-Syrian government, has defended the accords, saying they "consecrated the reality of sincere and constructive cooperation ... between the two countries."

However, addressing the leaders of the two countries, Tueni said: "Slow down, slow down, gentlemen. Let's be satisfied with coordination in foreign policy for the time being ... and not be swept by our emotions and dreams about unity."

"A free dialogue, without fear, repression or intimidation, is required," he added.

Saudis appoint finance minister

NEWS AGENCIES

RIYADH

This week, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia appointed a new finance and economy minister, the country's fourth in six months.

The official Saudi Press Agency said that the king named Ibrahim Abdel Aziz al-Asaf to the post. Asaf is a former deputy governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency central bank. He was appointed to the cabinet only a month ago.

King Fahd, 74, handed over the reins of government to Crown Prince Abdullah on January 1 for an indefinite period. King Fahd is recovering from a stroke he had in November, but he made it clear that he is not abdicating as monarch of the world's largest oil producer and exporter.

The king replaced veteran Saudi finance minister Sheikh Mohammad Ali Abal-Khail last August in the biggest cabinet reshuffle for 20 years, seen as a signal that the country was pressing ahead with long-promised economic reforms.

The new minister, Suleiman bin Abdul Aziz al-Suleim, resigned in October on health grounds and was replaced by a veteran confidant and troubleshooter, Abdul-Aziz bin Abdullah al-Khweiter, as acting finance minister.

Diplomats said it was unlikely that the new finance minister would depart from the policies set in Saudi Arabia's sixth five-year economic plan, which was

approved last July for the period up to the year 2000.

The plan aims to reduce the kingdom's dependence on oil and encourage a greater role in the economy for the private sector. Three-quarters of government income currently derives from Saudi Arabia's crude oil and petroleum product exports.

The country now pumps eight million barrels of oil per day, all but one million of which is exported, mostly to Europe, the US and Japan. It has the capacity to produce an additional two million.

Meanwhile, Crown Prince Abdullah is continuing the monarch's policies and there is no rift in the royal family about the succession. The king's brother, who serves as the defense minister, said in an interview published this week.

"In times of plenty, we disperse, like camels grazing in the spring pastures - but as soon as a challenge arises, we come together again," Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz told the *Ashraq Al-Awsat* daily.

King Fahd's illness has raised speculation that he may step down or be seriously ill, causing a succession crisis.

But Sultan stressed that the rules of succession were clear and well-established and that there is no

dispute within the extended al-Saud family on the issue.

Sultan said nothing about the king's health or how long he will need to recuperate.

He stressed that foreign press reports that the traditionalist Abdullah was going "to steer the kingdom away from the West in general and the United States in particular" were untrue.

He said the reports stemmed from ignorance or envy of Saudi Arabia's "prosperity and stability."

Fahd's reign has been marked by rapid modernization and close ties with the US, while the crown prince is more conservative and most at home with the Beduin in the kingdom's desert heartland.

Abdullah has, on occasion, been critical of Saudi Arabia's alliance with the US, but he is not considered anti-American.

Sultan told *Ashraq Al-Awsat* that describing the present period in Saudi Arabia as "transitional" was wrong.

Rather, he said, it is a continuation of the "wise policies" that were "drawn in the service of the people" by Fahd.

On another key issue, he told *Ashraq Al-Awsat* that Saudi Arabia wants "the best relations possible" with Iran, with which the kingdom has long been at odds.

Iran, which considers itself a revolutionary beacon for the Islamic world, is predominantly Shiite Moslem, while Saudi Arabia is predominantly Sunni Moslem.

Diplomat's killer appeals

ON January 22, Arif Mustafa Talis, who was convicted of killing a French military attaché in Lebanon, admitted at the military appeal court that Hizbullah and Sheikh Meendi Shchade had ordered him to murder a French citizen.

Talis told the head of the court, Amil Nasser, that the order came as a response to the 1983 bombing of the Beirut area by French warplanes which resulted in several deaths. Legal sources said that on January 23, the military appeal court concluded its examination of the trial of Talis who was convicted of killing the attaché on September 18, 1986. The appeal verdict will be delivered on April 4.

The trial of Talis, a former soldier in the Lebanese Army, was referred to the appeal court by request of the attorney-general and defense lawyers. They originally asked the court to overturn the death penalty handed down by a court martial against Talis on April 13, 1994. (Radio Free Lebanon)

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A question of blame

It is difficult not to sympathize with Fatah spokesman Kadura Mousa who wondered yesterday why the Palestinian Authority was being blamed for the killing of Ehud Tal. After all, Israelis should know better than anyone that no security service and no authority can control every murderous fanatic. And, as Mousa put it, the incident occurred in an area controlled by Israelis. How could the PA prevent it?

At first glance, he has a point. It may be human nature to point a finger of blame when murder is committed, but the flurry of accusations which follow every terrorist act lack credibility. The PA did not send Mahmoud Siriyeh on his murderous mission yesterday, and it is even doubtful that Hamas did, although he belongs to the Islamic organization and has a record of terrorist activity.

Yet Fatah's protests of innocence are disingenuous, and Israel's charge is eminently justified. It is indeed the Arafat regime in the territories, and no one else, that is guilty of continued terrorism. Like all Palestinian terrorists, whether acting within an organizational framework or alone, Siriyeh committed murder because he knew he would be a hero to his people.

And no one is more responsible for making him feel this way than Yasser Arafat himself, who lionizes and glorifies terrorists consistently and passionately. If the atmosphere in the self-rule areas breeds, nurtures and encourages terrorism, it is Arafat's doing.

This does not mean that Arafat wants events like yesterday's murder to occur just now. On the contrary. He has done his best to put a halt to terrorism until he can attain whatever he can from Israel without violence. For this, he has concluded an agreement with Hamas in Cairo, which obligates Hamas not to launch operations from areas he rules. His forces have acted to prevent hits against Israel by PLO factions and

the Islamic Jihad, and the Palestinian Police has even confiscated weapons from some known Islamic activists who might act independently.

But Arafat has not touched the terrorist infrastructure. The terrorist militias have, in fact, gathered strength and expertise, according to army intelligence. More important, Arafat - winner of the Nobel Peace Prize - has yet to say one word to his people against violence. If anything, his rhetoric during the recent Palestinian election campaign, like his speeches on entering Jenin, Nablus and Bethlehem, repeated the familiar expressions of admiration and homage to past and current "martyrs." No one among his listeners has doubts about the meaning of such expressions, nor about his call to "keep the oath," and "stay on the mountain."

Clearly, Arafat wants to keep the revolutionary fervor at fever pitch, and he has no intention of cooling it by selling the idea of peace and coexistence. As deputy chief of army intelligence Brig-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror told the cabinet meeting on Sunday, "Arafat is not implanting the concept of peace in Palestinian society. Nor is he trying to make his people understand that the most they can aspire to is [Israeli withdrawal to] the 1967 borders. This policy leaves in the consciousness of the Palestinian multitudes the 'plan of phases' [for the destruction of Israel]."

It is, then, less than convincing to hold the PA responsible for terrorism only when an Israeli is murdered. A government which says nothing about Arafat's incitement, or the honor his regime has bestowed on such murderers as Yihye Ayyash and other "martyrs," or the Palestinian education curriculum which ignores Israel's existence, or the hundreds of other manifestations of aggression and hostility against Israel sanctioned and encouraged by the PA can hardly single out one murder as a reason to blame its peace partner.

The Ethiopian challenge

The pronouncing of the world media on the violent Ethiopian demonstration as proof of racism in this country was perhaps understandable. It is a label many would like to pin on Israel. But it should not deflect the government from the real challenge the immigration from Ethiopia poses.

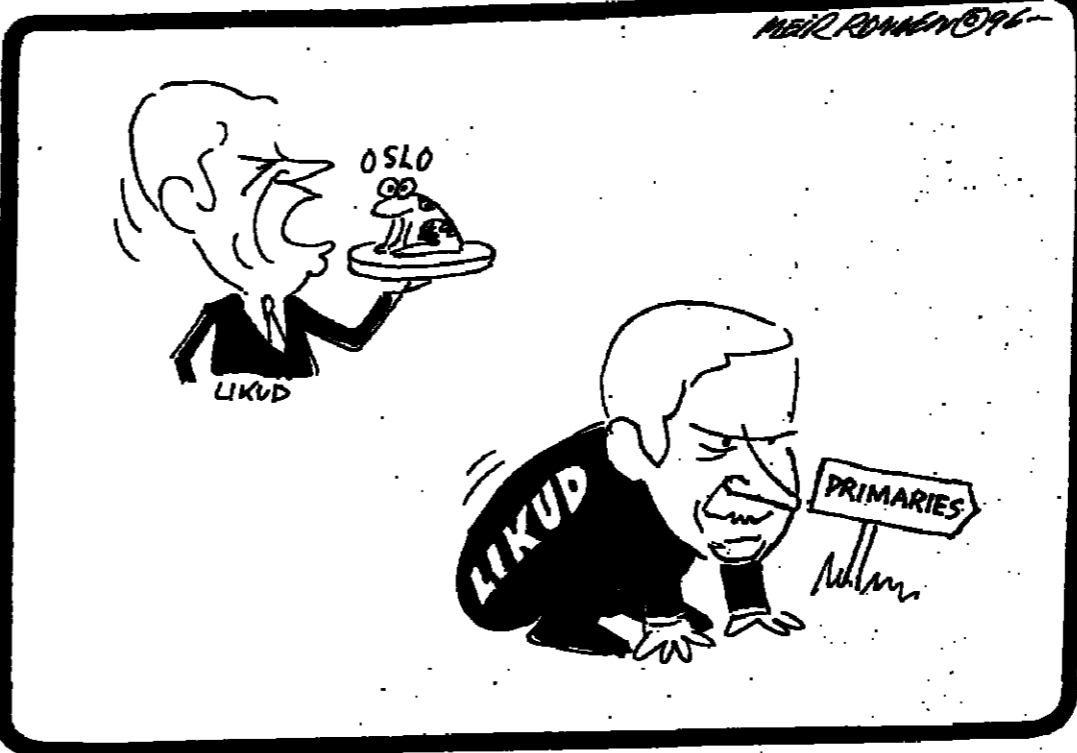
If Israel is guilty of anything it is of a tendency to patronize immigrants from less-developed countries. To use donated Ethiopian blood would have been a dangerous mistake. But the Ethiopians should have been granted the right and the dignity to understand the reason for such discrimination, which has nothing to do with racism.

What the Ethiopian community needs is not the privilege of donating blood but for the government to take vigorous steps toward full integration. This means the dispersion of the

Ethiopian population to prevent neighborhoods in which it now lives from becoming ghettos; understanding the cultural differences which handicap Ethiopian children in school and providing them with proper help; letting Ethiopian children pursue academic directions; affording adult Ethiopians job training opportunities; and the total removal of all religious limitations due to the rabbinic's doubts about their Jewishness. It is unthinkable that an Ethiopian should be Jewish enough to serve in the army, but not quite as Jewish as other Israelis for the purpose of marriage.

The Ethiopian problem can and must be resolved, if for no other reason that the community is avidly patriotic and eager to integrate into Israeli society. All that is needed is good will and the kind of sensitivity which hitherto has been sorely missing.

OPINION



Beware false remedies

Four years ago after midnight, on January 8, 1992, the Knesset, disregarding the accepted practice of democracies that constitutional changes should be both cautious and incremental, passed a bill providing for a radical change in Israel's system of government.

According to the bill Israel would retain the parliamentary system, but the prime minister, rather than being confirmed by the Knesset, as is the case in all parliamentary democracies and as has been the practice in Israel since the state was founded, would be elected by direct popular vote.

This hybrid system, improved anywhere in the world, passed the Knesset by a single vote margin - 57 to 56 - as if it represented no more than a trivial change in some existing law, without even obtaining the support of an absolute majority of the 120 members of the Knesset.

The majority of Knesset members were actually opposed to the bill, but "party discipline" was invoked, and it carried the day. To soften the blow the promoters of the bill decided to postpone its implementation until the 1996 elections.

As these elections approach we are now facing the moment of truth. It is our last chance to avert the serious defects of a system hastily and haphazardly imposed on us.

The most obvious disadvantages of the system are:

It provides for none of the checks and balances considered necessary in a system in which central authority is vested in the chief executive (the directly elected prime minister). The best known executive system of government, that of the US, provides for a clear division between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, and for extensive checks and balances, involving the federal congress as well as state governments, that

MOSHE ARENS

greatly restrict and limit the power of the executive.

It gives controlling leverage to small but disciplined groups in the electorate. The Israeli political scene is characterized by a number of small but highly cohesive and disciplined parties. The support of any one of them is likely to be crucial in determining the election for prime minister.

It can be expected that under the new system, there will be ferocious political bargaining prior to

It isn't too late to abolish the direct election of the premier law

the election, and that the final result will be determined by members of a small party voting en bloc in accordance with a deal struck between their leadership and one of the candidates.

It promotes the existence of a multiplicity of small parties. In recent elections most voters, realizing that the influence of small parties was likely to be small, have exhibited a tendency to vote for the larger parties, so as not to "waste their votes."

With the direct election of the prime minister, it can be expected that many voters, having cast their vote for one of the candidates for prime minister, will feel more inclined to vote for one of the small parties - closest to their hearts.

It creates the possibility of a deadlock between the prime minister and parliament. It is easy to visualize the ensuing difficulties should the elected prime minister turn out not to have majority Knesset support. Under the present system, support of a majority of MKs is the condition for the election of the prime minister and

his continued exercise of power.

THE BILL for direct election of the premier passed in an atmosphere of disrespect for politicians and the political system that came to a head after the break-up of the national unity government in March 1990, and the extensive and ugly political haggling that followed.

Although legislation is called for in order to curb such behavior (some has already been passed in the Knesset), the rush to indict the system of government, under which we have lived for almost half a century seems precipitate and injudicious. In retrospect, our system of government has managed to steer the country quite satisfactorily through the wars and crises of these years, including the recent assassination of our prime minister.

The outstanding problem of coalition forming (a problem for all forms of democratic government) has been the relatively large number of parties represented in the Knesset.

The obvious way to deal with this problem is to increase the minimum threshold vote required for a party to gain representation. Until the last election that threshold was only 1 percent lower than in most other democracies.

The increase to one-and-a-half percent, voted before the last election has already reduced significantly the number of parties represented in the present Knesset and considerably eased the problem of forming a government coalition. A further increase in the threshold is likely to minimize the problem further. On the other hand, direct election of the prime minister is likely to exacerbate it.

It is not too late to abolish the law for the direct election of the prime minister, a false remedy that is most likely a poison pill.

The writer is a former defense

You can't hide the differences

GAD YA'ACOBI

DIASPORA Jewry is facing a new reality. In the past, solidarity with Israel stemmed from the perceived obligation to support Israel in times of emergency or challenge.

With the disappearance of the existential threat to Israel and the progress toward peace, Jews abroad are asking themselves: Need we now feel obliged to demonstrate support and solidarity for Israel?

Israelis have to understand that American Jewry has also undergone a significant transformation in recent years. The first generations felt alienated from mainstream society and suffered anti-Semitism, US Jews in the 1990s are highly assimilated and well-integrated.

Israelis are often oblivious to the fact that American Jews increasingly see themselves as part of the US establishment. We tend to downplay the fact that US Jewry is the richest society in the world, with the highest level of education.

There are approximately 500,000 Jewish students in American universities (compared to 100,000 in Israel, with a similar sized Jewish population), and approximately 100,000 Jewish professors and researchers at American universities. US Jews are making outstanding contributions in economics, business and finance; in law; the arts and literature; in government and in the media.

Although legislation is called for in order to curb such behavior (some has already been passed in the Knesset), the rush to indict the system of government, under which we have lived for almost half a century seems precipitate and injudicious. In retrospect, our system of government has managed to steer the country quite satisfactorily through the wars and crises of these years, including the recent assassination of our prime minister.

Israelis and Diaspora Jews must look beyond slogans like 'We are one'

Israelis and Diaspora Jews must understand that by preaching to and attacking one another, we will never achieve a meaningful dialogue.

Slogans like "We are one" are all very nice, but our differences are many.

We may occasionally speak each other's language, but while doing so need to be aware that our communication may be far from complete. Our world views remain very distinct.

ISRAELI'S Jewish identity is a natural one. We live in a country where our citizens don't travel or work on the High Holy days. Independence Day and Memorial Day are religious and national holidays on which we all commemorate the reestablishment of Jewish sovereignty in our homeland.

Israelis may not all observe the holidays in the same way, but they are positive experiences shared by the entire country. The American Jewish experience clearly cannot be the same.

Our collective memories differ completely. Our experiences and associations are dissimilar. So are our hopes and dreams. American Jews are focused on their own country, on the society they belong to, just as we relate to the country in which we live.

American Jews live in a country where they are a minority. In order to establish a Jewish identity they need the framework of a synagogue, a Jewish school, a community, or a home where Jewish values are taught. It is often difficult for Israelis to understand the importance of these institutions in preserving Jewish life outside Israel.

For their part, American Jews perceive our secular culture as alienated from Judaism.

Both Israeli and American Jews are undergoing a process of normalization. As the threats to Israel's existence emanating from our immediate surroundings decrease dramatically, the dangers of distance growing ever greater between the two communities increases at an alarming pace.

The gap that has been created must be filled with a new, positive agenda.

Essential ingredients for a renewal of the relationship are Jewish education, and a knowledge of Jewish history and culture.

What is needed is greater direct, personal involvement between the two communities, through travel and study in Israel, investment and business partnerships with Israeli companies, and joint activities in the fields of economics, science, technology and art.

Israelis and Diaspora Jews must attempt to understand each other's very different backgrounds, to appreciate the differing needs and conditions of the individual communities.

Ignoring and insulting each other is not the answer. Respecting and talking to one another is.

The writer is Israel's ambassador to the UN.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE SETTLERS' FATE

Sir, - In response to David Newman's diatribe in the Post of January 17 ("The settlers cannot win"), I find it outrageous that he seems to have little or no concern for the future of 150,000 Israeli heroes. His opinion that the residents of Judea and Samaria serve Peres's agenda by acting as "facts on the ground" indeed describes a victory of immense proportions for the settlement movement as a whole.

But in two areas, Newman shows just how selfish and lacking in Jewish morals the left has become. First, he complains that Prime Minister Peres prefers to talk to the settlers rather than delegitimize them as prime minister Rabin did. This was only true in the first weeks of Peres's administration, when he still had to consolidate his hold on power. Since then, he has imprisoned a larger number of Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria for no reason, refusing them any of their democratic rights, such as a speedy trial, or specification of charges. To wit, the case of Shmuel Cytryn.

Second, Newman claims that any move to evict residents from their homes in Judea and Samaria will result in inter-Jewish violence, something of which all Israelis now "live in fear."

This is pure scaremongering on the part of the extreme left in order to further delegitimize these heroes of Israel. But for the sake of argument, let us assume that such violence does take place, God forbid. Newman assumes that this will be the fault of the residents themselves, who should instead agree to abandon their homes peacefully, and with them a large part of Eretz Yisrael for a peace agreement that only brings Israel closer to war. In truth, however, such violence, if it does occur, will be the fault of the government, both under Rabin and under Peres. It is this government

which has spent the last three years doing little other than abuse the residents.
The residents of Judea and Samaria feel abandoned by their government, and rightly so. It is high time that the Israel left dispose of its extremists and move back into the Zionist realm.
YEHUDA POCH,
Freeman Center for Strategic Studies
Willowdale (Toronto).

THE FEPZ

Sir, - Your article in Money Magazine of January 17 about the Wall Street Journal is pathetically off the mark. Of all major newspapers, the WSJ has the only editorial page which is consistently pro-Israel. Its articles on Israel are balanced and don't focus on irrelevant minutiae. The fact that it doesn't have a full-time bureau (according to your article) is a blessing in disguise. Those papers that have bureaus print a lot of articles which make their way to the Eye on the Media column. The reason is obvious: the reporter has to publish to justify the bureau.
I read the WSJ articles about the FEPZ. They were neither "sickening" nor "pathetic." They focused on the government's lack of consistent policies and the constant changing of the rules.

You seem to have it in for the promoters of the FEPZ. In the end it was the government that agreed to the deal. If you don't like the FEPZ idea, then you should focus your venom on the government, which embraced the idea and approved it.
It is rather strange that The Jerusalem Post, while politically right of center, still adheres to the views of its previous owners on economic issues.
Is this the way to treat friends?
DAVID BLANK
Jerusalem.

STATISM IN ISRAEL

Sir, - Allow me to take issue with the characterization by columnist Sever Plotzker of the "economic ideology" of Prime Minister Shimon Peres (Money Magazine, January 10). After noting Peres's total confusion and the fact that Peres claims to be in favor of socialism and free markets at one and the same time, Plotzker goes on to explain that in fact, Peres, like Rabin, has no ideology at all except growth, full employment, low inflation and good social services. The only things he left out were motherhood and opposition to car accidents.

This is nonsense. Peres, like Rabin, is totally devoted to statism, where the government controls, or is at least involved in, as much of the process of national resource allocation as possible. The government of the Labor Party (and the Likud was no better on this) is completely opposed to privatization, unless of course a company can be "privatized" while being transferred to the friendly hands of political allies or while retaining its monopoly position. Beyond chanting the word "growth" like a Buddhist mantra, the Labor-Meretz government continues to insist on exercising the whole range of anti-growth controls and programs. And its real dedication to "healthy public services" and privatization can be seen in the immense bonooodge of the National Health Insurance Law, whose damages are only now becoming apparent, or the NIS 100 billion bailout of the Histadrut's insolvent pension funds.

In contrast with Plotzker's naive belief that such statism "works" and that Israel will prove to be the first country in human history to spend its way into prosperity with government budgets and socialist controls, the dirigisme is a failure here as it is everywhere else it has been attempted.
Haifa.
STEVEN PLAUT

"I was extremely cold and windy in Leningrad this winter," Boris recalls. "I am no longer used to such a climate." He had just returned from his first visit after his aliya six years ago.

"The town was lit up for the New Year, friends kissed and shook hands, but there was little sincere joy, few expectations. Most of the people I know doubt that this year will be any easier than the last."

"The political situation is tenser and more complex than ever. The present sick and alcoholic leadership is mistrusted, and there are many sad jokes about it. Other aspirants to power project no well-defined policy, except for their thirst for power."

"People are tired of promises, and many seek consolation in religion. Most worry about where their next meal is coming from. My old friends are finding it very hard to make a living."

Boris flew to Leningrad to meet his sister, married to a Russian. They live on tiny pensions, and find all their money gone long before the month is out. They peddle whatever they can.

Boris visited the office where he used to work and found many of his former colleagues ready for any menial job to supplement their meager salaries.

"There was an overwhelming sadness in the air, a feeling of hopelessness and betrayal," says Boris. "There is heavy unemployment, in particular among academicians and intellectuals. They are simply wasting their time and knowledge."

"Housing conditions are a disgrace. Public transport is awful, you can wait hours for a bus. True, you can now purchase whatever

ALEXANDER ZVIELI

your heart desires, but luxuries are out of ordinary people's reach."

"There are strong feelings against wealthy and powerful foreigners and against speculators who flaunt their fortunes. Jews are being singled out as parasites. In

Boris went back to Leningrad and returned suffused with sadness

general, the lot of the average Russian is now harder than ever."

What worries Boris most is that people who remember the positive aspects of the previous regime have quickly forgotten the negative.

"They remember full employment, and forget that it was the Gulag that regulated the Soviet labor market. They remember free education, and inexpensive cultural activities. They remember the order, but forget the fear. They recall with pride the Soviet Union's achievements, forgetting the censor, the intimidation, and the tightly closed borders."

I CAN recall my own unforgettable Gulag experiences in 1939-1941. Near the Pechora and Workuta mines I had a unique opportunity to meet the cream of Soviet society - the former generals and heroes of the Soviet Union, the high government officials and university professors, all of whom eventually became Stalin's victims, and were lucky to escape execution, sentenced instead to long terms of Gulag "reeducation."

There they were free to talk to

me, another "enemy of the people," a victim of the 1939 Soviet occupation of Eastern Poland. To them, my memories were like a breath of fresh air from the free world, while to me their hopes were an interesting speculation.

"A day must come," they used to repeat over and over again, sometimes looking over their shoulders, when this oppression will end. A new leader will arise. He will gather the courage to overthrow our oppressive bureaucracy, eliminate the Gulag, promote private initiative and stop waste.

"Russia," they claimed almost unanimously, "could become the wealthiest country in the world. It has unlimited and as-yet unexploited treasures of gold, oil, iron, and coal. All we lack is a progressive and democratic regime."

"It is foolish to use hundreds of Gulag prisoners when a single earthmover can work more quickly and efficiently. Free Russia will quickly outdo America and assure prosperity and success for our people."

Such were the hopes which kept these people alive. Such were their hopes when, mobilized and restored to their former ranks, at least temporarily, they beat the Nazi invasion. Such were still their hopes when they returned home, to confront new waves of terror.

Then, just when the Soviet Union was on the brink of total bankruptcy, an imaginative leader did indeed arise. A grand revolution took place.

So what happened to all those great hopes? Were they just wishful thinking?

Boris shrugs his shoulders, sadness in his eyes.

The writer is a freelancer.

POSTSCRIPT

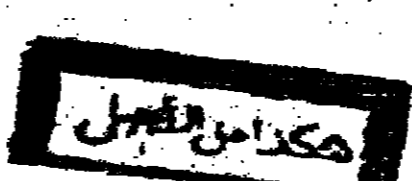
PETER SEDORE shot a hole-in-one. Then, he died.

Sedore, 83, got his 18th career

hole-in-one in Hemet, California. A hole later, he died of an aneurysm.

"There was no other way he

would have wanted it," said Sedore's son. "Maybe God wanted him to do it one more time before taking him."



He provides a refuge from chaos

Swiss architect Mario Botta explains why it's important to put people's needs first, Esther Hecht writes



Botta's design of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is similar to a cathedral he built in Evry, France.

A museum and a private home share one primary function: they are places of refuge where people can gather strength to confront the chaotic world outside.

"A home satisfies a basic need - for defense, for shelter. Even today, when we say, 'I'm fed up, I'm going home,' our home is the last refuge from which we then go out and face the world," Swiss architect Mario Botta said last week as he presented his work of the past 10 years.

A museum is a refuge in a larger sense. Like a cathedral, it meets a spiritual need.

"Both provide spaces for moments of quiet, to enable us to confront the whirlpool of change the modern world has wrought," he explained to an overflow audience at Tel Aviv University's David Azrieli School of Architecture.

Botta - one of the leading architects in the world - is to be asked to design a synagogue for the campus, a university source said.

MEETING MAN'S basic needs, Botta declared, must be an architect's primary concern.

Accordingly, a small, triangular house he built into the face of a mountain in his native canton of Ticino is almost cave-like, with only its silvery brick facade visible. And yet, paradoxically, the narrow rear of the house is the most brilliantly lit, with natural light streaming down a circular stairwell.

A museum is a space for direct contact between the creator of art and the consumer of art, without any interference from self-appointed intermediaries like the media, he

said. That direct contact arouses a response that is akin to a religious experience.

Botta is fond of saying provocatively that "the museum is the modern cathedral," or, as he put it in Tel Aviv, "the museum is a secular cathedral."

In fact, he sees them as so similar in function that a cathedral he built in Evry, near Paris, incorporates the most distinctive elements of his design for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Both have

powerful, simple geometric forms, including a cylindrical tower that pours light into the interior and that is cut diagonally so its roof becomes part of the facade. And, in keeping with his aims of simplicity, both museum and cathedral are built of just three materials: brick, stone and wood.

When Botta proposed building the museum of red brick, the major donors balked at the humble material.

"They wanted a building with a strong identity," he recalled. So did he, but in a different way. He wanted it to be an "eye looking at the city." He also saw it, together with an adjacent brick building, as part of a "wall" marking a boundary of the downtown area. And he "wanted it not to get lost in the glass that covers over all aspects of modern culture."

The glass-faced building, a hallmark of modern architecture, is anathema to Botta. The way glass is used today, "you can't see what's going on behind it."

"In all of his work, he strives to get away from this kind of ambiguity and back to basics: setting the most primitive functions of buildings before esthetic considerations, using simple geometric forms and basic materials.

"Simple elements help man find his way in the labyrinth of the modern city," he said. "This is not an esthetic matter, but bringing back values that man needs."

BUT BOTTA'S use of basic materials is anything but simple. Take brick, for example, which has been used to build houses for nearly 6,000 years and which faces some of the dearest structures in the US.

In the San Francisco museum, Botta stood some of the bricks on end, canted some at an angle and indented others. The result is a richly textured surface on which both sunlight and moonlight can play.

The garden wall of a private home he built recently in Switzerland has an even more intricate pattern of bricks, providing a constantly

changing tableau as the light changes. Thus, as he said, "every line becomes a plastic element."

BOTTA, 52, was born in Mendrisio, Switzerland. At 15, he apprenticed himself for three years to an architectural firm in nearby Lugano. He studied with Carlo Scarpa, an admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright, at the Università di Architettura in Venice. While in Venice, he also worked with Le Corbusier and Louis Khan. All have influenced his work.

His practice is based in Lugano and many of the private homes he has built are in that vicinity.

Norbert Cymbalista, a Tel Aviv University governor who sponsored Botta's lecture here, commented, "As he walked around the university, he looked as if he were looking to build something."

THE SWISS architect's approach is particularly suited to Israel, according to Prof. Avraham Yasky, who heads the university's school of architecture.

First, Yasky said, is Botta's choice of materials - including cement blocks, bare concrete, brick and stone - which are available here in abundance, as opposed to lighter materials, like metal, which are not.

Botta uses these materials with great precision, and in a northern country with meager light this might yield a cold, technical look. Yasky said. But here, the strong light and shade highlight the texture in a way that brings it to life.

And because of the strong light - and the glare it generates - Botta's introduction of light from the ceiling, rather than through windows, is particularly fitting.

Meanwhile, Botta the modernist had nothing but praise for Israeli architecture. "Tel Aviv is like an exhibition of architecture, of the modern style used in the best way," he said. "Europe is stuck with the past. Israel is proof it is possible to build with modern architecture. For me, this is a source of great hope."

'How comes' and 'whys' of a toddler

PARENTING RUTH MASON

As any parent of a two-year-old knows, the demands of child-rearing are intensified the moment your child can express her or his curiosity about the world by asking, "why?"

About two months before his second birthday, "Why?" - soon joined by "How come?" - became my son's favorite words. Answering his endless questions has taxed not only my energy and patience but also whatever I learned to get through elementary school, high school and the University of California. In trying to explain the ways of the physical world and the human community to Yosef, I've come to see how limited is my own fund of knowledge.

Why do we see images on our television screen? Why does a light bulb go on at the flick of a switch? Why do people send birthday cards?

A two-year-old is a budding scientist with wide-ranging interests in physics, chemistry, biology, physiology, anthropology, zoology and just about any other field concerned with the behavior of people, plants, animals and the forces of nature.

The day before his second birthday, Yosef received three birthday cards in the mail. We sat on the floor while he tore them open, and I read them to him. "Why?" he wanted to know when I was done. "They're birthday cards - for you," I explained.

"Why?" "Grandma and Aunt Rona and Uncle Leon sent them to you to wish you a happy birthday."

"How come?" After several more attempts at logical explanation, I ended up telling him, only half-facetiously, that birthday cards were just a human custom. These unfamiliar

words must have doused his interest - if not satisfied it - and he toddled off to play with his truck.

My husband thinks that Yosef's insistent "Whys" are automatic; that after the first one, there's no real motivation behind them. But I disagree. A two-year-old is a newcomer to our planet, and he might as well be from Mars.

All our behaviors, habits and activities - from combing hair to wearing shoes to blowing out birthday candles - are foreign to him. He is an anthropologist who takes nothing for granted.

Everything, from the most common social niceties to complex social institutions, is open to examination. Part of his task as he grows up is to make sense of this new world. And what better way to get the information he needs than to come out and ask? Asking questions is also a way to keep a busy parent engaged and to get her attention, but the absorbed look on Yosef's young face as he listens to my explanations convinces me that his drive to know is authentic.

Yosef challenges me. All too often, I am at a loss for answers. More often than I'd like, I resort to, "That's a good question," or just plain, "I don't know." He makes me think about things I haven't considered in years - if ever. How did the custom of sending birthday cards originate? How do televisions and radios and light bulbs and cameras really work?

By our 20s and 30s, those of us with a liberal arts education accept the magic of nature and technology without giving it a second thought. Until we have a two-year-old. And then we have to give it not only a second thought, but a third and a fourth.

I hope Yosef keeps the curiosity that so drives him now long enough to find out the answers for himself - and for me.

Time stands still at the Stalin State Museum

TIME has stopped in the birthplace of Joseph Stalin. Perhaps the hands of the clock are still in his grasp, for the mighty forces of change that have swept through his Soviet empire have yet to penetrate the citadel of his memory in Gori, Georgia.

In the late 1980s, as glasnost and perestroika began to lay bare the bloodiest of Stalin's excesses, there was talk of correcting the record at the Stalin State Museum here.

There was talk of acknowledging some of Stalin's victims. As recently as two years ago, plans were being laid for a museum souvenir shop that would sell Stalin memorabilia in keeping with the free-market mood of the times.

But like so many things across the vast and timeless former Soviet landscape, inertia prevailed. At the Stalin Museum, nothing much happened. Indeed, the only difference is that the museum's worshipful exhibits - removed for safekeeping to Austria during years of post-Soviet civil strife in Georgia - have now been put back on display at a time when more and more people are talking nostalgically about the good old days under communism.

Stalin's boyhood home, a single-room cabin where he was born Joseph Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili, remains untouched under the pavilion built in 1937 to protect it. The adjacent baroque museum was opened in 1957 - five years after Stalin's death - and the exhibits were

updated in 1979. Stalin's personal armored railway car, with its pre-Revolution mahogany trim, luxurious compartments and extra set of wheels, remains parked on the grounds. But it is inside the museum that a visitor finds time at a standstill, the cult of personality still fresh. Young Georgian schoolchildren are paraded through the halls, but what they see, the story of Stalin's life, is virtually the same display mounted in Soviet days.

It is devoid of criticism, bereft of truth about Stalin's millions of victims, his brutal collectivization of farms, his purges, his prison camps. They just disappear.

Depicting Stalin as a man of culture, one exhibit explains how he took an interest in the translation of a famous Georgian poem, "Knight in a Tiger's Skin," into Russian.

Stalin made notes in the margins of the translated copy, which is displayed under glass. The year was 1937, but there is no mention of the poets and writers Stalin sent to the camps and to their deaths that same year.

Another exhibit deals with the period of Soviet agricultural collectivization. A photo depicts an 11-year-old girl, Mamlakat Nakhangova, receiving an award from Stalin for picking cotton.

Another depicts a beaming woman tractor driver. But there is no word about his brutal suppression of the kulaks - prosperous pre-Soviet peasants - or of the millions of people who died in the



Children stand in front of a picture of Joseph Stalin admiring Lenin at the Stalin museum in Gori, Georgia. (David Hoffman/Washington Post)

subsequent famine. Stalin's role in the Bolshevik Revolution and the years immediately after is portrayed as second in importance only to that of Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state. But there is hardly a mention and not a single photograph of Leon Trotsky, a central figure in

the revolution, who was forced into exile and murdered in 1940 by Stalin's agents.

The onset of World War II is depicted with photos of brave Soviet soldiers rushing to the front. Nothing is said about the secret pre-war protocols between Hitler and Stalin that divided up

Poland and the Baltic states, or of Stalin's panic as Nazi troops neared Moscow in 1941, or of his purge a few years earlier that wiped out a generation of army officers.

Nor is there a word about the Great Terror - the arrests, torture and executions of suspect

Communist Party officials and others in the 1930s. Even the display covering Stalin's personal life manages to skip over unpleasant details, such as the suicide of his second wife, Nadezhda.

Nunu Jojishvili, a guide at the

museum for 17 years, said that when the exhibits were removed for safekeeping in 1991, "we talked about making changes in the history of the 1930s, but nothing has been changed so far."

She took a pointer and showed a visitor the one critical item on display in the entire museum: the text of Lenin's famous warning to his colleagues - dictated in 1922, two years before his death - against Stalin's having "unlimited power in his hands."

Jojishvili is not apologetic. "We think he was a great politician, and people should know it," she said. "We respect him. He didn't do anything for Georgia in particular; he harmed many and did good to others. People are nostalgic about this period; they come here and think it was not that bad."

Zhuzhuna Khinchikashvili, who as the museum's scientific secretary is responsible for verifying information in the displays, said plans for changing the displays have been discussed ever since 1988, when Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev launched his reform drive in Moscow.

Gorbachev began to expose the dark secrets of the Stalin years and the museum was closed for a short while.

"We met all the experts, and we asked for money," she said, but it was never forthcoming, so they put the old exhibits back up.

(Washington Post)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1996

Limits lifted on foreign share offerings

Jerusalem Post Staff

RESTRICTIONS on foreign companies that want to raise capital on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange will be lifted, effective next Wednesday, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday.

Public offerings by foreign companies will continue to be subjected to the TASE's own rules, as are offerings by local companies.

Until now, foreign companies that wanted to offer stock here needed a specific permit, which limited the amount of foreign currency the company was allowed to carry abroad to one-fifth of the capital raised in a single offering.

Central bank spokesmen ex-

plained that the new policy, which is part of the broader plan to gradually ease foreign currency restrictions, became feasible after the recent equalizing of taxation levels on foreign and local securities traded in Tel Aviv.

At the moment, only two non-Israeli companies - Evergreen and Gazit Inc. - are listed on the TASE.

The central bank stressed that the world's leading capital markets are already open for Israeli share offerings.

Opening up Israel's capital markets for foreign offerings is an important step to engaging the economy in world markets, the central bank said.

Gov't offices to allow credit card payments

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ISRACARD is negotiating with the accountant general at the Finance Ministry to incorporate ministries into the credit card company's payment system, Isracard general manager Haim Krupsky said at a press conference yesterday.

Krupsky said the accountant general plans to publish a tender inviting all credit cards to offer proposals to incorporate credit card payments in government offices.

"In the future, all ministries will be able to accept credit cards as a form of payment," Krupsky said. "For example, the Transport Ministry will be able to accept credit cards for car licenses and the Justice Ministry will accept credit card payments on fines."

Last year Isracard credit cards had a 24 percent real increase in business turnover from 1994. The ratio of credit card usage to checks was 55%-45%. Krupsky forecasts the ratio to be 2:1 by the end of the decade.

Isracard estimates that 60% of the population currently uses credit cards. An estimated 32% of all private consumption in the economy, excluding housing, was carried out by credit cards last year, up from 27% in 1994.

Italian company head plans trip to discuss Dead Sea investment

RACHEL NEIMAN

VICE president of Italian holding company IRI, Roberto Tama, is due to arrive here within two weeks to discuss a planned \$20 million investment in the Dead Sea.

A visiting delegation of medical and business experts representing the region of Lombardy in northern Italy earlier this week signed agreements for cooperation in business with Dead Sea Laboratories, manufacturers of Ahava products.

The delegation is headed by Dr. Alberto Calibretti, who is the deputy health minister of Lombardy.

Tama was originally to have arrived with the delegation but postponed his trip due to the political crisis in Rome.

Representatives of Lombardy's San Rocco spa and members of the Lombardy regional government also signed agreements with the Tamar regional council for development of a spa near the Dead Sea.

Joint research will be conducted to examine cooperative health tourism ventures and medical research, Tamar regional council head Yoav Givati announced yesterday.

Dead Sea Laboratories vice president Dan Benihu said the initial agreement includes distribution of Ahava products in Italy and the establishment of an Ahava Spa at San Rocco.

A Dead Sea Laboratories delegation will visit Lombardy sometime next month to instruct the San Rocco staff in the use of their products.

Gideon Holdings to buy 15% share in Elite

Deal reached after talks break down with Clal

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

GIDEON Holdings, the Strauss family's investment company, will purchase a 15-percent share in Elite Industries for about \$22 million, after negotiations between Elite and Clal Industries broke down.

The shares are part of the 25% stake Federman acquired from the British Man company and will be purchased at the same price paid to Man.

At the end of last week the Federman group - which includes Elite chairman and general manager David Federman, his father and his brother - bought Man's 25% of the controlling shares and 12% of the share capital for \$44m.

Strauss chairman Michael Strauss, owner of the Strauss Dairies, said negotiations between the two companies started several days ago.

"The whole situation is new," Strauss said. "We have a mutual handshake but nothing is in writing yet. We have agreed on several main points, like the price of the shares, the quantity and that we are both interested in joining arms in managing the company."

The Federman family will hold about 27% of the controlling shares in Elite after the transaction is completed, maintaining its

position as the major shareholder.

Strauss and Elite reached an understanding several hours after Federman informed Clal Industries that he is no longer interested in reaching a partnership agreement with them.

Clal Industries entered intense negotiations to purchase a 21% stake in Elite from the Federman group at the start of the week, based on a gentleman's agreement reached before Federman purchased the shares from Man.

According to Clal Industries general manager Meir Laser, the companies had agreed on issues related to the roles of the general manager, chairman and industrial company.

Sources close to the negotiations said Federman wanted to continue to manage Elite almost independently, while Clal wanted a more active role in the management of the company.

In reaction, Laser said "published reports that claimed the differences in opinion were due to Clal's request to appoint an active chairman to the company, an auditor and financial director are not true."

According to Laser, Federman took advantage of Clal to help him compete against the Bino Zadik-Liberman consortium in the purchase of Man's shares in Elite. He said Federman negotiated with Clal and at the same time searched for other partners.

"We had a number of understandings concerning management procedures that Federman asked to change, even though we had an understanding," Laser said. "He [Federman] asked to make changes regarding the chairman's and management's role in the company and also how an industrial company should operate."

"We were confident we had an understanding with him," Laser said. "In my opinion, there are certain morals to which businessmen are expected to abide regarding agreements and understandings, but since we did not have a signed agreement I suppose it was his right to end negotiations."

"The decision to end negotiations with Clal is due to differences of opinions on business matters," Federman said.

He said the deal with Strauss is a good business investment for the Elite group and is expected to contribute to the company's business development.

GM posts record profit for both quarter, year; stock jumps 1 1/4 in NY

DETROIT (Reuters) - General Motors Corp. said yesterday it posted record profits for the fourth quarter and full year, despite weakness in the auto industry worldwide.

The world's biggest carmaker said net income soared 19 percent in the quarter ended December 31 to a record \$1.9 billion, or \$1.98 a share, from \$1.6b, or \$1.74 a share, in the 1994 period.

The results surprised investors on Wall Street, who had expected quarterly profits to dip to about \$1.4b.

GM stock jumped \$1.125 to \$53.625 yesterday in trading on the New York Stock Exchange, where it was among the most active issues.

For all of 1995, the Detroit-based company said profits jumped 41% to a record \$6.9b, or \$7.21 a share, from \$4.9b, or \$5.15 a share, which had been a company record.

"The record fourth-quarter and calendar-year results demonstrate the solid progress we've made toward achieving our goal of consistent industry-leading financial results, even though the overall worldwide industry was slightly weaker in 1995 than during the previous year," GM Chairman John Smith Jr. said in a statement.

GM said net income from its

North American operations edged ahead by less than 1% in the fourth quarter to \$603 million from \$598m.

But for the year, they surged more than 250% to \$2.4b. from \$677m.

Net income from international operations gained almost 10% in the quarter to \$498m. from \$454m, leading to a year-over-year gain of 4%, to \$1.64b. from \$1.58b.

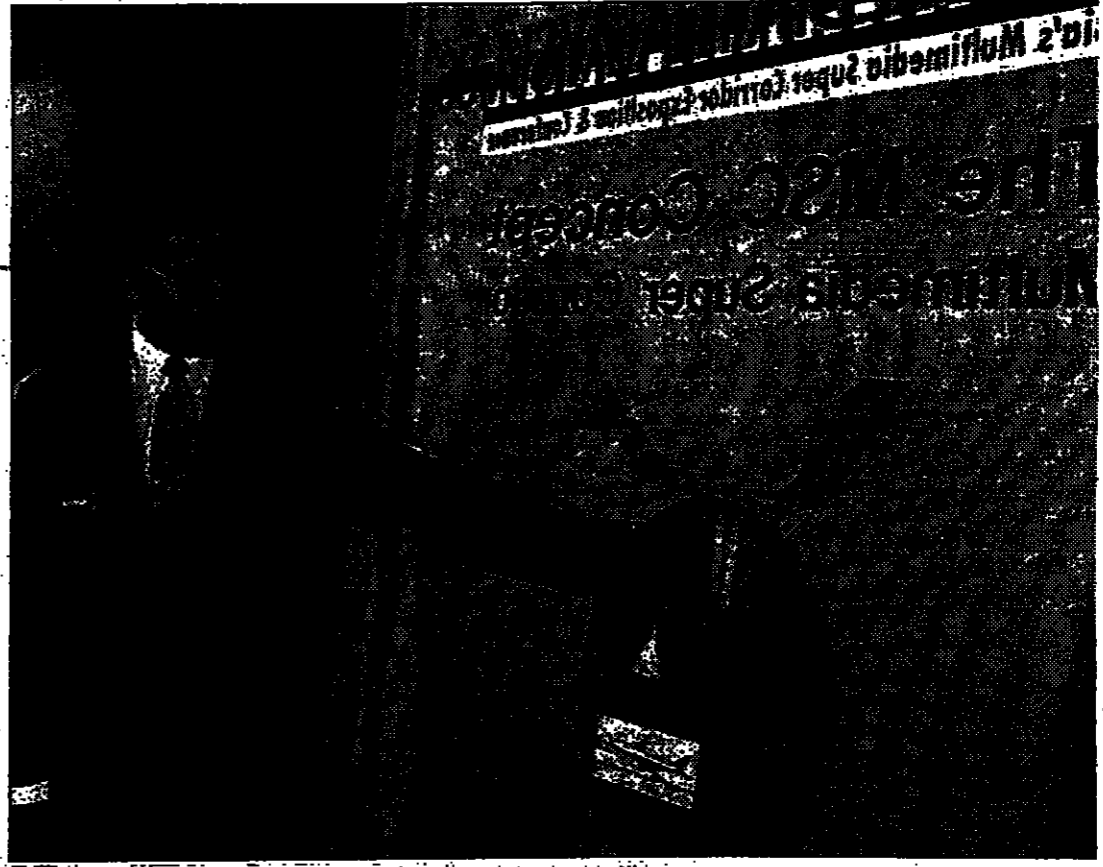
On Monday, GM's finance, defense electronics and computer services subsidiaries reported total profits of \$796.4m. for the quarter, up 13% from 1994.

GM said revenues increased by 3.2% to \$43.9b. in the quarter, when it delivered 2,034,000 cars and trucks worldwide and increased its global market share to 17.7% from 17.3%.

Total revenue for the year expanded by 9% to \$168.8b. from \$155.0b. as GM delivered 8.3 million units, maintaining its position as the No.1 vehicle producer in the world for more than 60 consecutive years.

GM said vehicle deliveries in the US in the quarter increased to 1.21 million units as its market share grew to 33.5% from 33.3%.

For all of 1995, US deliveries totaled almost 4.9 million units for a market share of 32.4%, a slight dip from 32.8% in 1994.



Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed points to the planned location of the country's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) during the program's launching in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. The MSC is an area encompassing the Kuala Lumpur city center, Putrajaya and the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport, which will be a high-growth center with state-of-the-art products to cater for world-class multimedia companies. (Reuters)

Fokker's search for buyer 'in full swing'

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Stricken Dutch planemaker Fokker said yesterday its search for a buyer was still in full swing after a South Korean rival played down its interest in the firm.

"We have had quite a number of signals of interest from aero-

space groups from all over the world. The first job is to sift out the serious candidates and then proper talks can begin," Fokker spokesman Leo Steijn said.

South Korea's Samsung Aerospace, widely touted as a potential buyer, said it had no firm

plans to buy Fokker as a whole. "Fokker has been an important player in the aerospace industry and our firm is keen to expand into the aerospace business. But we're not approaching Fokker with an intention to take it over," a Samsung spokesman said.

Committee approves bill allowing class-action suits against banks

EVELYN GORDON

CUSTOMERS would be able to file class-action suits against banks, according to a bill approved by the Knesset Economics Committee for a second and third reading yesterday.

The Knesset passed a bill allowing class-action suits in general for the first time last year.

At the time, however, banks and insurance companies were exempt, at the government's insistence, despite the committee's objections.

Meretz MKs Haim Oron and Naomi Chazan therefore submitted private member's bills to include the banks and insurance companies, and the section relating to banks was approved yesterday.

The bill permits either groups of citizens or consumer advocacy

organizations to file class-action suits, as long as the court in which the suit is filed approves.

The court can refuse to recognize the suit as a class action if the group involved is too small, if filing individual claims would be just as effective, if it seems unfair for some reason to force the bank to deal with the claims as a class action, or if the plaintiff does not appear to represent all members of the group.

If the suit is recognized as a class action, it will be exempt from court fees, and the lawyer's fee will be subject to court approval.

The bill also states that if all members of the affected group cannot be located for any reason,

the court will decide whether to divide the extra award money among those members of the group that can be found, or to order it spent in some other fashion that would benefit all customers of the guilty bank.

The committee approved the bill, despite the fact that the government presented its own, different version at yesterday's meeting, saying the government has no right to come with its own bill at the last minute when the committee has been working on its bill for several months already.

"If the Treasury has objections, it should present them to the committee, and not start a parallel legislative process [by drafting its own bill]," Oron insisted.

McGraw-Hill earnings rise

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The McGraw-Hill Cos. yesterday said earnings rose nine percent in the fourth quarter and announced it was cutting up to 800 jobs, or about 5% of its work force, as part of a plan to cut costs.

The New York-based information and media company said strong results at Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, Business Week magazine and in its educational publishing division all contributed to strong results.

Net income grew nearly 12 percent for the year.

Net earnings rose to \$54.5 million, or \$1.09 a share, in the quarter, from \$49.9m., or \$1.01 a share, in the comparable 1994 period, the company said. Sales grew 7.5% to \$749.6m. from \$697.3m.

The results included a pretax charge of \$26.8m. for the job cuts and other elements of the plan, and a \$23.8m. gain on the sale of

part its Shepard's legal publishing operation to a unit of Thomson Corp. last year.

The cost-cutting drive was launched last year and will continue through 1996, Chairman Joseph Dionne said. "Some of the savings from these actions will be offset by investments in technology and training."

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Paiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (30.1.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.825	4.500	4.375
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	4.375	4.375	4.250
Yen (10 million yen)	0.250	0.250	0.375

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (30.1.96)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates*
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.1148	3.1892	3.05	3.1276	3.1403
German mark	2.0685	2.1324	2.06	2.117	2.1181
French franc	4.8024	4.7858	4.80	4.84	4.7279
Japanese yen (100)	0.0108	0.0207	0.01	0.02	0.0147
Deutch Mark	1.5228	2.0697	1.52	3.01	2.8219
Swiss franc	2.5792	1.9026	1.94	1.93	1.8665
Swedish krona	0.4487	0.4620	0.46	0.58	0.5458
Norwegian krona	0.0421	0.0209	0.02	0.02	0.4610
Danish krone	0.0845	0.0998	0.07	0.08	0.4488
Finnish mark	2.2590	2.2955	2.22	2.53	0.5895
Canadian dollar	2.0328	2.0482	2.02	2.28	2.5300
Australian dollar	0.6227	0.6825	0.77	1.08	0.8626
S. African rand	1.0202	1.0377	1.00	1.07	1.0272
Belgian franc (10)	2.8840	3.0322	2.83	3.05	3.0048
Italian lire (1000)	1.8223	1.5338	1.91	1.91	1.8628
Portuguese escudo	—	—	—	—	—
Spanish peseta	—	—	—	—	—
Irish punt	2.8420	3.0000	2.83	3.02	3.0000
Israeli shekel	4.8661	4.9448	4.78	5.02	4.9023
Special points (100)	2.4787	2.5187	2.43	2.58	2.4882

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

מזכרון תל אביב

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

INTRA-STOCK MARKETS table with sub-sections for NYSE STOCKS and New York market indexes.

NYSE stocks table listing various stock prices and changes.

Other stock market indexes table including FTSE 100 and Nikkei.

Israeli stocks in NY table listing companies like Am I, Am I P, and Am I P.

INTRA-MONEY MARKETS table showing dollar cross rates.

Labor rates table listing various labor market indicators.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. table.

INTRA-COMMODITIES AND METALS table listing commodity prices.

US commodities table listing prices for various commodities.

London commodities table listing prices for London-based commodities.

Spot market metals (US) table listing metal prices.

New York metal futures table listing metal futures prices.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of Tel Aviv stock prices, categorized into Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK advertisement with logo and contact information.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices from various global markets.

Indexes fall for second straight day

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



STOCKS fell for a second straight day after the central bank raised interest rates...

Also, in a note to the stock exchange, Clal Industries and Elite Industries Ltd. said they had broken off discussions on operating in the management of Elite.

Hanson's plan to demerge into four firms dominates trade

LONDON (Reuters) - Industrial conglomerate Hanson's plans to demerge into four separately-listed companies dominated trade...

TOKYO - Shares in Tokyo rebounded to finish at a 17-month high, helped by arbitrage-linked buying against the backdrop of better prospects for Japan's economy.

HONG KONG - Hong Kong stocks closed at their highest level since February 9, 1994, on a late surge driven by soaring futures and New York's record close overnight.

PARIS - French shares closed with a big gain, rising by more than one percent to over the 2,000 level. This brings the French market back to its closing level of May 17 1995.

The gains were posted after Finance Minister Jean Arthuis cut a special savings rate and French banks slashed their base lending rates to 7.0% from 7.5%.

ZURICH - Swiss shares closed about 1% higher after a firming dollar, a stronger start on US markets and rising bond futures led the market up in the afternoon.

The All-share SPI gained 20.20 points, or 0.96%, to finish at 2,113.91.

The blue-chip Hang Seng Index climbed 142.49 points, or 1.29%, to end at 11,201.46.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market ended lower as profit-taking eroded recent day's gains but Advance Bank's first half profit and bonus issue provided some shine to the otherwise lackluster day.

JOHANNESBURG - South African shares finished mixed as a firmer bullion price rejuvenated gold shares but industrials eased amid uncertain short-term prospects.

"It's actually being very quiet, not a lot of business today. The gold price seems to want to go higher so shares could strengthen tomorrow," one dealer said.

The Dow Jones industrial average racked up its biggest one-day gain since last May to set another record high yesterday on hopes that the Federal Reserve will lower interest rates to revive the slowing economy.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones Index closed up 76.23 points at a record 5,381.21, just one day after climbing through 142.49 points for the first time.

Dow surges 76 points

WALL STREET REPORT

CURRENCY CROSS RATES table listing exchange rates for various currencies.

Sports federation president announces plan to resign

Sports Federation of Israel set to go on strike tomorrow

PRESIDENT of the Sport Federation of Israel, Yehzekel Harmelech, announced last night he will resign from his position as soon as the federation's financial shambles gets sorted out.

Harmelech accused Deputy Minister of Education Culture and Sport Micha Goldman of "insufferable indifference" to the financial plight of the SFI. Goldman has dismally failed to keep his financial commitments to the federation, said Harmelech.

Tomorrow, the SFI will "in all likelihood" be

ALAN ROBERTS

on strike if salaries totaling NIS 260,000 aren't paid today.

In a meeting earlier this month, Goldman reportedly promised Harmelech and SFI General Director Shmuel Lalkin he would immediately transfer an amount of NIS 4 million to the sports body but as of last night, the money was still not forthcoming.

The SFI is in overdraft to the tune of NIS 1.6m

at the two banks where it keeps its accounts.

Moreover, it owes employees that were laid off as a result of the 18 sport associations going independent NIS 1,410,000. A further NIS 2.6m is owed to sports suppliers and NIS 1.8m to the sports unions to prepare for the '96 Atlanta Olympics.

In total, the SFI needs to obtain NIS 7,710,000 immediately in order to meet its financial commitments and continue its operations, Harmelech said.

A halftime show from Hell: Diana Ross lays an egg

THE Wicked Witch of the West won the Super Bowl.

That much was painfully obvious to anyone who watched Monday morning's telecast on either Sports Channel or Prime Sports. Dallas may have won the game despite not playing its best, but Diana Ross - wearing enough pancake makeup to make Tammy Faye Baker jealous - was the one who really came out ahead in a halftime show that had to be seen to be believed.

A fan who once attended the Super Bowl assured us that most of those at the game can hardly see the halftime spectacle, meaning it's pretty much aimed at the huge national television audience.

The question then becomes who at NBC, which had the rights to the game this season, was so eager to boost Ross's sagging career that they agreed to this less than Supreme entertainment. Or maybe Little Richard was just busy that night.

Ross's voice is not what it used to be, nor is her body, but that didn't prevent her from giving us her full repertoire while prancing around in a variety of outfits that looked like what the original Wicked Witch of the West wore in The Wizard of Oz. Ross won't get by getting someone to let her do the halftime show, as she did when she got the nod to do our own Hapoel games. Thank god there was a football game to watch before and after a half-hour, mercifully whisked Ross away.

AS for the game itself, we went with Prime Sports' English language broadcast rather than Sports Channel's version, fearing a repeat of past years when Sports

SPORTSWATCH

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Channel felt compelled to invite over a studio full of entertainers turned commentators. To their credit, Sports Channel stuck with just one - Yair Lapid - this year, and he appeared to be sufficiently restrained when we caught him during a time-out.

Prime Sports' NBC feed was a bit strange: no announcer at all in the run-in to the pregame player introductions. Prime really blew it when they failed to get back from a movie ad for the second half kickoff! Otherwise, the NBC team did a fair job, especially when they flashed a graphic depicting the huge members of the Dallas offensive line chowing down. As one of the NBC broadcasters noted, "You think it's time for a gut check? Check those guts."

NBC cameras did catch several shots of the officials blowing calls, including a questionable Emmitt Smith touchdown and a highly charitable first down given the Steelers. Still, NBC's coverage is nowhere near FOX's, and we can only hope that next year, John Madden, Terry Bradshaw and company are at Super Bowl XXXI - and Ross isn't.

THIS week's truly super effort was Monday night's broadcast of the Hapoel Jerusalem-Hapoel Tel Aviv basketball game by Sports Channel, part of its new Monday night Hameish Ba'avir program.

The studio decor, featuring a closet containing the jerseys of the National Basketball League teams, is too much of a clone of foreign broadcasts, but the overall presentation, especially the fea-

tures, is first-rate. This week they focused on the problems facing Bnei Herzliya, and provided stats to explain the team's disappointing performance: almost 16 points per game less over the last four games, and a 16 percent dropoff in David Thordill's production.

Sports Channel's Opher Shelach also scored with a phone interview with Efi Birnbaum about his resignation as coach of Hapoel Eilat earlier that day. The feature on David Blatt and his "Upper Galilee College of Basketball" was well done, as was the extended profile of Nanad Markovitch, in which the Hapoel Tel Aviv player reflected on his war-torn hometown of Sarajevo. Just one complaint: the background music made it hard to hear Markovitch.

The production work on the game itself was superb: Sports Channel's outstanding camera angles make you wonder why the Channel One crew responsible for the Maccabi broadcasts can't even come close. The only low point was Simi Rigeur's clowning with Moni Moshanov of Zehu Zeh, in which Rigeur "coached" him on how to behave during Moshanov's upcoming trip to the NBA All-Star game.

Sending Moshanov to the game is a gimmick we can do without. Why not send Shelach, who could pose some really good questions to the NBA stars, rather than the silly ones Rigeur suggested, like "Ask Penny Hardaway why they named him Penny and not Dollar?" Besides plugging Zehu Zeh shamelessly, the segment wasn't worth a plugged nickel, and only lowered the standard of the otherwise excellent broadcast.

Birnbaum resigns from Eilat

POST SPORTS STAFF

EFFI Birnbaum resigned as coach of troubled Hapoel Eilat Monday evening, and former Maccabi Tel Aviv coach Ralph Klein was reportedly set to replace him.

Eilat had been a disappointment throughout the season, and had fallen to a 4-8 record following Sunday night's shocking home loss to Hapoel Safed.

The club's troubles started in the pre-season when foreign player Lawrence Funderburke decided to leave the team, and grew only worse when center James Terry - brought in to bolster the club after the season started - was also injured.

Eilat had been picked by the pundits to finish in the Final Four after adding point guard Rotem Erlich and forward Dror Cohen to the roster. However, the club faltered early, and the arrival of new foreign player Dwayne Morton - brought in after Tom Chambers was acquired by Maccabi Tel Aviv, where Morton had tried out earlier - failed to change things dramatically. Eilat also lost several games in the final minutes.

Klein, recently let go by Maccabi Tel Aviv, was rumored to be Eilat's choice to replace Birnbaum. Ironically, it was Birnbaum - as coach of Bnei Herzliya last year - whose club beat Klein's Hapoel Holon to win the State Cup last year.

Meanwhile, efforts were continuing to find funding that would allow Maccabi Jerusalem to return to full activity after the club suspended operations due to financial woes. Maccabi Jerusalem played its youth team earlier this week in a loss to Hapoel Galil Elyon.



GOING FISHING - Vancouver's Doug Edwards (r) tries to steal the ball from Philadelphia's Jerry Stackhouse during Monday night's game.

Sixers snap losing streak

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Jerry Stackhouse scored 29 points and the Philadelphia 76ers snapped a nine-game losing streak with a 103-92 victory over the Vancouver Grizzlies Monday night.

Sean Higgins had a season-high 27 points and added 11 rebounds, while Clarence Weatherspoon had 23 points and 10 rebounds for the 76ers. Greg Anthony had 18 points and Bryant Reeves 16 for the Grizzlies, who had won three of their previous five games.

It was the 76ers' first win in nine home games, but Philadelphia's 8-34 record remains the worst in the National Basketball Association.

Knicks 94, Heat 85

against New York.

Rex Chapman scored 23 points, Alonzo Mourning had 21 and Billy Owens 19 for Miami, which hasn't won two straight games since December 3.

Hornets 88, Cavaliers 86

Kenny Anderson's running bank shot with 0.6 seconds left gave host Charlotte its victory over Cleveland and evened the Hornets' season record for the first time since November 11.

Anderson dribbled off time at the top of the key before driving left and shooting over Michael Cage for the game-winner. Larry Johnson blocked

Danny Ferry's 3-point attempt at the buzzer to preserve the victory and send Cleveland to its fourth loss in five games.

Anderson finished with 16 points, Johnson had 20 points and 17 rebounds, and Matt Geiger added 18 points. Terrell Brandon led Cleveland with 22 points and Antonio Lang 14.

MONDAY'S NBA RESULTS:
Philadelphia 103, Vancouver 92
Charlotte 88, Cleveland 86
New York 94, Miami 85
Utah 106, Detroit 87
Seattle 92, Portland 88

All-Star reserves named

NEW YORK (AP) - Centers Patrick Ewing and David Robinson, and Utah teammates Karl Malone and John Stockton were among 14 players selected yesterday as reserves for the NBA All-Star game.

The New York Knicks' Ewing was selected for the 10th time. It was the eighth time for both Utah Jazz forward Malone and point guard Stockton. Robinson, of the San Antonio Spurs, was chosen for the seventh time.

Joining Ewing as reserves on the East team for the 46th edition of the game - to be played February 11 at San Antonio - will be Cleveland's Travell Brandon and Indiana's Reggie Miller at guard, Miami's Alonzo Mourning at center, and Milwaukee's Vin Baker, Charlotte's Glen Rice and Washington's Juwan Howard at forward.

Robinson, Malone and Stockton will be joined as West reserves by Seattle's Gary Payton and Sacramento's Mitch Richmond at guard, Denver's Dikembe Mutombo at center and San Antonio's Sean Elliott at forward.

Voting for reserves was done by head coaches.

Earlier, fans voted for the starters, picking center Shaquille O'Neal of Orlando, forwards Grant Hill of Detroit and Scottie Pippen of Chicago, and guards Michael Jordan of Chicago and Aronie Hardway of Orlando for the East.

The West starters will be center Hakeem Olajuwon of Houston, forwards Charles Barkley of Phoenix and Shawn Kemp of Seattle, and guards Clyde Drexler of Houston and Jason Kidd of Dallas.

GUESS WHO

Who interrupted Rickie Henderson's streak of seven straight AL stolen base titles in 1987?
Harold Reynolds
Joe Mauer
Tony Fernandez
Dave Winfield

Answer tomorrow

Answer to yesterday's "Guess Who": Miami's Jake Scott was the MVP as the Dolphins beat Washington in Super Bowl VII.

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Chelsea wins at QPR

LONDON (AP) - Gavin Peacock and Paul Furlong, both replacements for suspended players, fired Chelsea into the fifth round of the FA Cup Monday in a 2-1 victory over Queens Park Rangers.

Nigel Quashie, Rangers' new 17-year-old midfielder star, replied midway through the second half and team-mate Bradley Allen missed a penalty.

But Chelsea, buoyed by a standout midfield performance by Raul Gullit, looked a far more impressive team and deserved go

through to the last 16, where it will visit the winner of West Ham or division one Grimsby.

Rangers' Mark Hateley headed wide in the fourth minute before Peacock, replacing suspended Dennis Wise in midfield, scored the first in the 19th.

Peacock took a pass from Scottish international forward John Spencer and fired a shot which took a deflection off Andy Impey before swerving past Rangers American keeper Jergen Sommer.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Magic Johnson fever hits LA

Earvin "Magic" Johnson practiced with his Los Angeles Lakers' teammates yesterday before taking the court in his first professional basketball game since retiring four and a half years ago.

Basketball fever gripped Los Angeles as word spread that the "Magic" was back, with tickets for last night's game with the Golden State Warriors selling out in just five hours on Monday.

Tickets from brokers were going for \$300 each yesterday and were being snapped up by fans determined not to miss a piece of basketball history at the Forum, the Lakers' home court. *Reuter*

Salley leaves Raptors

John Salley, unable to get any playing time with the Toronto Raptors, arranged for a buyout of his contract and will try to join another team.

Salley and his agent worked out the deal. The contract was to have run 1 1/2 years and was worth more than \$4 million.

Salley was chosen by the Raptors from the Miami Heat in last June's expansion draft and played a key role early in the season. However, power forward Tony Massenburg has returned to the lineup and Salley has not played since January 3 in Orlando. *AP*

Phillies send Slocumb to Red Sox

The Philadelphia Phillies and Boston made a long-anticipated trade Monday, with the Red Sox acquiring closer Heathcliff Slocumb and the Phillies getting outfielder Lee Tinsley.

As part of the deal, the Phillies also received outfielder Glenn Murray and pitcher Ken Ryan. They sent outfielder Rick Hofffield and pitcher Larry Wimberly to the Red Sox.

In other baseball news, the Minnesota Twins signed outfielder Roberto Kelly to a minor league contract and invited him to major league spring training camp. *AP*

Police investigate alleged Seles threat

Australian tennis officials on Tuesday refused to confirm reports that a death threat had been made against joint world number one Monica Seles last week, although police said they were investigating a threat.

Melbourne's Herald Sun newspaper reported yesterday that Tennis Australia, organizers of last week's Australian Open, had received an anonymous telephone call last Friday during which Seles's life had been threatened.

Seles had not been told of the threat, the newspaper said. Extra police were reportedly assigned to tighten security around the player during the tournament. *Reuter*

CRITIC'S CHOICE



The Brazilian satire 'Testament of a Dog' has been relocated here in the Khan Theater revival.

THEATER
HELEN KAYE
TESTAMENT of a Dog, the 1955 satire by Brazilian playwright Ariano Suassuna, was a runaway hit at Habimah in the '70s and Khan Theater artistic director Eran Baniel has revived it for the '90s. This comedy of morals sends up clericalism and greedy clerics. The story centers around Grilo (Shimon Cohen) and Chico (Simha Barbiro) who persuade Father Romario (Bassam Zuaito) to perform a funeral for a dog, Baniel, inspired by hardi protests against excavations near the Scottish Church (hard by the Khan). Dan Almogor did the adaptation. Tonight at ZOA House in Tel Aviv at 8:30. (Hebrew)

CLASSICAL MUSIC
MICHAEL AJZENSTADT
BAROQUE flutist Kate Clark and harpsichordist Yoheved Schwarz present a concert lecture about the flute in the French Baroque at 8 p.m. tomorrow at the Jerusalem Music Center.
Pianist Ya'acov Kasman joins the Haifa Symphony Orchestra to play Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto Friday, 11 a.m., in the opening concert of the Friday morning winter series to which tickets are a mere NIS 10. Eitan Globerson also leads the HSO in Kodaly's *Dances from Galanta*. At the Haifa Auditorium.

The Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba presents highlights from Johann Strauss's classic Viennese operetta *Die Fledermaus* under the baton of Alexander Levinson with Larisa Tanev, one of Israel's promising operatic talents as the lady Rosalinda, who finds that her husband is flirting with her own maid during a grand ball. Shirley Hecht is the maid. At 8:30 Saturday and Sunday in Beersheba.

DANCE
MICHAEL AJZENSTADT
The Mark Morris Dance Group makes its local debut tonight presenting *Allegro, Il Penseroso ed Il Moderato*, a relatively unknown Handel oratorio, complete with orchestra, chorus and four singers and Morris's dancers on the stage. Tonight through Sunday at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center at 8:30, except Friday at 1.

TELEVISION
RUTH KERN
AGE becomes many of the principals in the Watergate break-in and subsequent cover-up. Halderman and Ehrlichman, for two, today look more like a small-time California vintner and a hot tub salesman than president Nixon's Teutonic, monumentally upright palace guard. For one of the most intensely covered news stories of recent history, the BBC's look back at that huge political scandal is surprisingly fresh and intriguing. Catch part 2 of *Watergate* on BBC World at 10:05 p.m.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1
6:30 News in Arabic 6:45 Physical Fitness 7:00 Good Morning Israel
EDUCATIONAL TV
8:00 The Jews of North Africa under colonial rule 8:30 Arithmetic 8:55 Israeli history 9:15 English 9:25 Young children's programs 10:00 Morning talk - Alternative medicine 10:30 Current affairs (pt) 11:00 Music 11:25 Geography 11:55 Judaism 12:20 Life sciences 12:35 French 12:40 Science and technology 13:10 Life stories 13:35 Animal tales 13:50 Kitty Cat and Humpty 14:10 Peter Pan 14:30 Children's programs

CHANNEL 1
15:30 Trivision 15:55 Who's Afraid of the Dark? 16:20 Hoppa Hey 17:00 A New Evening 17:35 Zap - current affairs 18:15 News in English
ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Family Health matters - magazine 19:00 News
HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 Every Evening with Merav Michaeli 20:00 Mabat News 20:45 Moked - interviews with newsmakers, with Elrud Yariv 21:15 Ever Shot Anyone? - Documentary made by a woman director about the all-male refuge of reserve duty. Michal Aviad accompanied a company of thirty-something men on a 32-day tour of duty on the Syrian border 22:15 No. 100 - media magazine 23:00 Dream On - comedy 23:30 News magazine 00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2
13:00 in Yaron's Studio - Yaron London talks to children (pt) 13:30 Power Rangers 14:00 Star Trek - the next generation 15:00 Zoo 15:30 Me and the Boys 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshef 17:30 SportTV - youth sports magazine 18:00 Sereca - Spanish soap opera 18:55 Claudia - documentary about Claudia Schiffer 20:00 News 20:30 Wheel of Fortune - quiz show 21:05 The Wonderful World - new entertainment program with Erez Tal 22:35 NYFD 23:35 Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia (1974) - A Millionaire offers a reward for the head of the man who got his daughter pregnant. A lackluster American pianist answers the call. Starring Warren Oates and Isela Vega. (112 mins) 00:00 News 00:05

WHERE TO GO
Notice in this feature are charged at NIS28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS220.85 per line, including VAT, per month.
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HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur, 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. 02-418333, 02-778271.
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HAIFA
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CHILDREN (6)
6:30 Cartoons 8:00 Surprise Garden 8:35 Little Monsters 9:00 Bunch of Munsch 9:40 Silver Hawks 10:10 Hanging with Mr. Cooper 10:45 Lois and Clark 11:40 Loony Toons 12:00 Saved by the Bell 12:30 Hugo 13:00 Surprise Garden 13:35 The Detective 14:00 The West C.O.W.s 14:35 Bookman's World 15:10 Silver Hawks 15:40 Growing Pains 16:15 Party of Five 17:10 Loony Toons 17:30 Saved by the Bell 18:00 Hugo 18:35 Little Monsters 19:00 Bunch of Munsch 19:30 Three's Company 20:00 Married with Children 20:25

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 After church, Ryan's upset by the parent's bloomer (13)
7 It is hard work to obtain powder (5)
8 Friends coming back stay with the comedy (9)
9 Left one's part, being agile (7)
10 In a hat, I confused the islander (7)
11 Last in the river (5)
12 Guiana could accept vehicle from another country (9)
14 Got back damaged oclair by the sea (9)
17 Money for record back in French street (5)
19 Reduced to an average that corresponded (7)
DOWN
1 Accountants about to put one junior on the wagon (7)
2 Communist vote gets the kind (7)
3 Place to be at in June at home? (5)
4 Being less patient has a row (7)
5 Posting large number who are sick (7)
6 Recording in register one's arriving in a ceremonious manner (8,9,5)
7 It's a big blow (4,5,4)
8 Earned shortly must remove the bone (7)
13 Gave an all-round demonstration of affection (7)
15 Cake for member getting in the condiments (7)
16 From Barnatz, a troublesome insect-eater (7)
17 Come across initially to find a composer (7)
18 In favour of one part of speech - or another (7)
20 Nothing more than a record club (5)

SOLUTIONS
ACROSS: 1 Stay, 3 Shaming, 9 Enter, 10 Crumple, 11 Tot, 13 Brighten, 14 Rashed, 16 Myriad, 18 Flathead, 20 Ed, 22 Ryeover, 23 Crown, 25 Embassy, 26 Adia.
DOWN: 1 Spent, 2 Act, 4 Hostile, 5 Naughty, 6 Imprecise, 7 Gossamer, 8 Dusk, 12 Testament, 14 Replete, 15 Episode, 17 Surest, 18 Edge, 21 Trust, 24 Ode.
Yesterday's Quick Solution:
ACROSS: 1 Stay, 3 Shaming, 9 Enter, 10 Crumple, 11 Tot, 13 Brighten, 14 Rashed, 16 Myriad, 18 Flathead, 20 Ed, 22 Ryeover, 23 Crown, 25 Embassy, 26 Adia.
DOWN: 1 Spent, 2 Act, 4 Hostile, 5 Naughty, 6 Imprecise, 7 Gossamer, 8 Dusk, 12 Testament, 14 Replete, 15 Episode, 17 Surest, 18 Edge, 21 Trust, 24 Ode.

QUICK CROSSWORD
ACROSS
1 Sound of leaves (6)
2 Drawing pin (4)
3 Very hot (9)
4 Train (6)
5 Select (4)
6 Leg of lamb (5)
7 Baptizing (6)
8 Scowled (6)
9 Coarse-grained rock (6)
10 US inventor (5)
11 Courageous (5)
12 Votes against (4)
13 Post (4)
14 Instruction (9)
15 Slightly crazy (6)
16 Appeal (5)
DOWN
1 Begin again (6)
2 Drawing pin (4)
3 Insect (6)
4 Train (6)
5 Forearm bone (4)
6 Left the stage (6)
7 Ran briskly (9)
8 Railway truck (6,3)
9 Grizz (6)
10 Alcoholic drink (5)
11 River of Bangladesh and India (6)
12 Protection (6)
13 Revised (6)
14 Nakedness (6)
15 Fine sediment (4)
16 Manager (4)

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CINEMA

★ The Usual Suspects 4:45, 7, 9:15 ★
★ Postino 4:45, 7 ★ Seven 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★
★ Desperado 9:15 RAV-OR 4:45 ★ 246553
★ [OS] Dangerous Minds The Usual Suspects/Unstrung Heroes 4:45, 7, 9:15
★ AFULA RAV CHEN Dangerous Minds/Father of the Bride II 7, 9:30 ★ Seven 7, 9:30
★ ARAD STAR ★ 950904 Golden Eye 9:30 ★ American President 7:15, 9:30 ★ Dangerous Minds 7:15, 9:30
★ ASHDOD G.G. Gil Father of the Bride II

Peres: Region must unite against Islamic fundamentalism

JUDY SIEGEL

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres yesterday called on Israel's moderate Arab neighbors to form a coalition against fundamentalist Islamic nations and groups that threaten "taking the world backwards 500 years."

All fundamentalist countries, such as Iran and Sudan, are suffering from devastating poverty and decline because of their ideology, Peres told some 3,000 participants at the opening of the 30th International Convention of the Information Technology Association of Israel in Jerusalem.

The greatest danger facing the world is the possibility that non-conventional weapons would "fall into the hands of irresponsible countries or mafias and be carried on the shoulders of fanatics."

The difference in per-capita income between Syria (\$1,000) and Israel (\$16,000) is not just quantitative, the premier continued. It brings about a complete change in attitudes, values, quality of life, and educational levels.

Free of fundamentalism, the Middle East can enter a market economy and transform itself and its people, just as the past decade has seen Thailand, South Korea, and even Indonesia and Latin America revamp their economies and infrastructure, Peres said.

The fall of the Soviet dictatorship, he continued, led to mass immigration of Jews to Israel, causing a 20 percent increase in the population and a 40 percent boost in the economy. Arab countries suddenly found themselves without their main source of free weaponry.

"It brought a new chance for peace. Now Israel is admired around the world, not only for what the Jewish people has accomplished, but also because it voluntarily decided not to rule over another people it could not control, despite the dangers and costs."

"This has widely been recognized as a moral achievement, and has won us credit in the world."

Yehezkel to ask Knesset to lift immunity

EVELYN GORDON

LABOR MK Avi Yehezkel will ask the Knesset House Committee to remove his parliamentary immunity this morning, unless the committee will agree to postpone the entire issue until after the Labor primary.

Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair had asked the committee to remove Yehezkel's immunity so he could stand trial on fraud charges related to the Histadrut scandal.

According to the draft indictment, Yehezkel allegedly paid for some NIS 16,000 worth of materials for his 1992 primary campaign with Histadrut funds, and then persuaded a Histadrut colleague to submit false invoices to account for the expenditures. The House Committee is to continue its deliberations today.

At a press conference yesterday, Yehezkel said that after attorney Amnon Zichroni had reviewed all the evidence in the case, Zichroni was convinced that the indictment was baseless, and wanted to try to persuade the House Committee to

refuse to lift Yehezkel's immunity on these grounds. However, Yehezkel said he preferred to try to prove his innocence in open court.

"At least the public should know what we're talking about," he said.

"And secondly, I don't want the Histadrut affair to crop up again and serve as a political weapon for the Likud against Labor [in the general elections]."

Yehezkel said that despite his decision, he was angry about the timing of the indictment, since it is likely to damage his chances in the primary even if he is later acquitted.

"I have very serious criticisms regarding the timing," he said. "It's no secret that the investigation of the Histadrut affair has not yet finished."

Therefore, he said, Ben-Yair could easily have waited until the investigation was completed before indicting him, and rather than doing so "just a few weeks before the primary."

Jerusalem municipality official accused of threatening Arab workers

MICHAL YUDELMAN

HISTADRUT Chairman MK Amir Peretz has initiated an investigation into the complaint of Arab workers in the Jerusalem municipality that they are being threatened and harassed by a well-connected city official.

Nine Arab workers in the capital's municipal sanitation department complained that Yisrael Twito, a political appointee of Mayor Ehud Olmert, had threatened them with dismissal, harassed them and humiliated them.

They said Twito told them he had many friends in the General Security Service and unless they did as he said he could have them dismissed or have other steps taken against them.

The affair began after elections for the sanitation department's union, in which most Arab workers voted against the union head finally elected.

Twito then began harassing the Arab workers, ordering them to carry out various tasks instead of their daily work, and in violation

of the instructions of the sanitation department head. When they refused, he threatened them with his connections in the GSS.

The Arab workers presented Jerusalem city councilor Ornan Yekutieli with written statements to this effect, which Yekutieli transferred to Peretz, urging the Histadrut's intervention. Yekutieli warned of the racial and political elements in threatening the Arab workers, noting "they constitute a group which can easily be frightened and pressured by this kind of behavior. It's enough if one idiot throws a match into the racist keg of gunpowder for the whole thing to explode."

Peretz instructed the Histadrut's internal comptroller, Adi Kandel, to look into the affair, stating "I will not tolerate any harassment on a political or racial basis."

The Jerusalem municipality spokesman said in Twito's name that Twito denies all the allegations against him and intends to take legal action against Yekutieli for his groundless allegations.



Housing and Construction Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer (left) yesterday, as Foreign Minister Ehud Barak samples raisins next to him. The two got a mixed reception in the market - long considered a Likud bastion - with Likud supporters shouting their backing for Binyamin Netanyahu, but others welcoming them. (Brian Hender)

Saguy bows out of primaries; Buhbut leaves Knesset

LIAT COLLINS AND SARAH HONIG

FORMER OC Intelligence Major (res.) Uri Saguy announced last night that he will not run in the Labor primary.

Saguy was one of the star acquisitions by Labor in the current season and Prime Minister Shimon Peres sought hard to dissuade Saguy from dropping out of the race.

Today is the last day to register for the primary race. Also yesterday, Labor MK Shlomo Buhbut announced he would not be running for the next Knesset.

Saguy denied yesterday that he would turn to another party or that he would consider offers from David Levy's as-of-yet unborn party.

The Prime Minister's Office denied Saguy had been offered the position of Mossad chief.

Saguy only joined the Labor Party seven weeks ago. He said right off that his real aim was not so much to win a Knesset seat as to eventually land a top executive position. As things stand, say Labor insiders, he apparently discovered that the primary field is very crowded and that his chances of winning a safe slot on the Labor slate were far from promising.

Buhbut said he had decided to dedicate his time to being mayor of Ma'alot-Tarshiha. His decision is the result of the new law pre-

venting MKs from simultaneously holding other jobs. "I fought against it, but the law passed and I'm obliged to act according to it. I don't want to mislead my voters in Galilee. I don't want to exploit the privilege granted me by the law and continue in both positions until the end of my term in the local authority."

Buhbut said he could contribute more as a mayor than as an MK, adding that his commitments as mayor prevented him from participating fully in Knesset life as a committee chairman or in another more meaningful position.

He did not reject the possibility of returning to the Knesset in

future years but denied he was contemplating running on David Levy's list. Apart from continuing as Ma'alot mayor, Buhbut said he would continue to work on national social issues.

"The 1996 elections will be determined by baring social issues. It is a mistake to believe that the terrible statistics on poverty, the widening social gap, and feeling of frustration in development towns can be brushed aside," he said.

In other Labor news yesterday, Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss formally submitted his request to run on the party's national list to party secretary-general Nissim Zvili in a brief ceremony in the Speaker's office.

Amir's new lawyer quits after a day

RAINE MARCUS

ATTORNEY Avraham Pachter yesterday asked the Tel Aviv District Court to release him as confessed assassin Yigal Amir's lawyer, just one day after agreeing to take on his defense.

Pachter, a former senior deputy Tel Aviv district attorney, was appointed by the court on Monday to lead the defense after Mordechai Offri resigned. Defense lawyer Jonathan Goldberg, who is believed to be taking a political line of defense and who has incurred the wrath of the judges for his apparent lack of knowledge of Israeli law, would have had to take second place to the experienced Pachter.

By law, any defendant facing a minimum 10-year sentence is entitled to a court-appointed lawyer.

Goldberg has been retained by American and Canadian businessmen.

On Monday, Pachter said he was not enthusiastic about representing Amir, but also had no hesitation. Yesterday, however, he decided to ask the court to accept his resignation "for reasons of conscience."

He stated in a letter to the three-judge panel that Amir wishes to turn the trial into a political platform for his views and that he cannot go along with this.

The trial continues tomorrow morning with the testimony of additional prosecution witnesses.

The Amir family has asked lawyer Yitzhak Brand, a resident of Emanuel, to represent Yigal. He is reportedly "thinking over the offer."

Burg: We will counteract Satmar abduction of Yemenite children

BATSHEVA TSUR

ISRAEL is planning to cooperate with the security forces of other countries to prevent the abducting of Jewish Yemenite children by the Satmar hassidim to the US, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg said yesterday.

Burg spoke after seeing a preview of a documentary exposing the methods used by the Satmar community to bring children to their institutions against their parents' wishes.

Some of the children were brought directly from Yemen and others from Israel.

The documentary was to be screened last night on Channel 2. In the footage, a young boy whose family lives in Ashdod says he was warned not to come to

Israel to be reunited with them. The Satmar followers told him that Israelis would cut off his side-locks and that living in Israel is "like living in hell."

Last year, there were reports that new immigrants from Yemen had been paid to send their children to the US by the Satmar community, shortly after arrival in Israel.

Yehuda Meshi-Zabav, a Satmar leader, reportedly states in the film that the Ethiopian community would now be the next target of the Satmars.

Burg charged that the Satmar community had picked up the infamous tactics of Nazi propagandist Goebbels and the Russian KGB. "We are planning to deal with the phenomenon," he said.

Peretz urges government to intervene in Ouman dispute

MICHAL YUDELMAN

HISTADRUT chairman MK Amir Peretz yesterday urged the government to intervene in the Ouman dispute to help reach a fair severance pay settlement for the textile plant's workers, saying the alternative would be the government paying the price for the crisis.

Peretz threatened to escalate the struggle against the management of Polgat, Ouman's owner, in the next few days, after Polgat reneged on the severance agreement it reached with Ouman's workers. He intends to convene the union leaders of Polgat plants today to discuss joint measures.

The Histadrut leader charged the Cial concern and Polgat with "deceiving not only the workers and Histadrut, but the govern-

ment, which will have to foot the bill at the end. The government does not agree with the way Polgat is handling the crisis. I have dealt with many senior economic figures and never have I encountered such abuse, irresponsible, and insensitive behavior."

Peretz said Cial and Polgat are not trying to solve the problems, but are "only counting the profits they will leave afterwards."

He called on the government to "snap out of its indifference and stop treating the dispute as something happening in far away Ofakim, because this crisis is at the government's very doorstep."

He added that he was contacted

yesterday by the directors-general of both the Prime Minister's Office and the Industry and Trade Ministry, indicating the ministers have decided to act in the matter.

Manufacturers Association president Dan Proper yesterday accused the Histadrut of sabotaging the negotiations between Polgat and Ouman's workers by holding demonstrations, calling for a strike at Polgat, and inflaming the dispute rather than trying to solve it.

In a sharp letter to Peretz, Proper wrote that "Polgat's managers have become a target of personal threats, deriving from the atmosphere which the Histadrut leaders have created. We have

learned that you intend to convene Polgat's unions and subject them to steamroller pressures and threats - even to disperse them - unless they support your measures."

Proper noted that Ouman's workers are ensured of the severance pay set by law and the negotiations center on sums exceeding those required by the signed agreements.

Ouman's workers held another stormy demonstration yesterday, this time outside Polgat's offices in Herzliya, accusing Polgat's management of evading the negotiations. The offices were empty at the time of the demonstration and the Polgat shop under the offices was cleared of customers by the police.

Opponents outline drawbacks of Trans-Israel Highway

LIAT COLLINS

ALTHOUGH the Trans-Israel Highway (Road No. 6) has received a green light from the government, several MKs and academics yesterday said the project should be marked with hazard signs.

The subject was discussed by a panel in the Knesset yesterday at the initiative of MK Benny Tenkin (Meretz), the Israel Union for Environmental Defense (Adam Teva Ve'din) and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI).

Tenkin said the Knesset Interior Committee which had discussed the plan had not been presented with serious alternatives at the time. He said those in favor of the road at

all costs reminded him of those who neglect safety in the work place or fail to prevent air pollution.

Environment Minister Yoel Sarid, one of three ministers calling for the road to be canceled, said he hoped the concrete work being carried out at the first planned interchange on the road "would be its gravestone." He said the road would not solve the country's transport problems, which involve traffic jams at the entrance to cities, and called for the development of a rail service instead. SPNI Chairman Yovav Sagi said the solutions offered by the road "are an illusion" and that the budget could be better spent on rail and public transport.

Arab towns opening to tourism

DAVID RUDGE

A GROWING number of Arab towns and villages, especially in the Galilee, are opening their gates to the public as part of a new trend toward engaging in tourism.

Scores of councils and municipalities from Hadera northward have expressed interest in developing tourism facilities in their communities, according to a recent survey carried out for the Tourism Ministry.

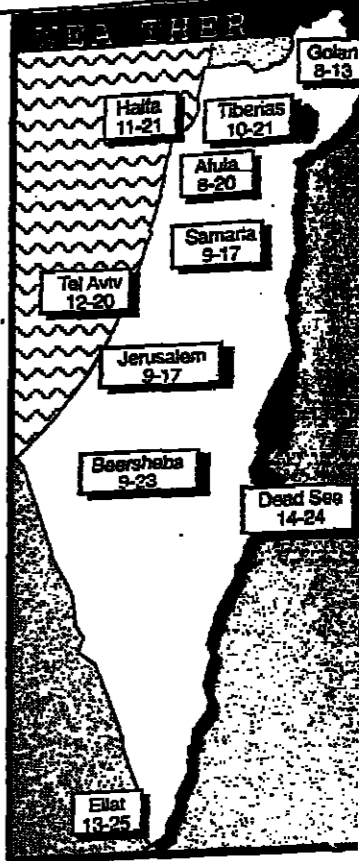
Ruthy Avidor, an official of the Tourism Development Authority, said the trend began as a "good neighbor" project three years ago with Kankab village in the Misgav region of the Galilee.

"Village-life bed and breakfast

places were opened in the village for the first time and since then it has spread to nearby places like Sakhnin, Deir Hanna and Arrabe, especially during the annual Misgav Days of Music and Nature Festival every Pessah," said Avidor, herself a resident of Yodfat in the Misgav region.

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram, who is keen to see the development of a tourism industry in the Arab sector which would help provide employment, visited Sakhnin yesterday.

Baram pledged that the ministry would assist in the development of tourism and infrastructure in the Arab sector and would be investing NIS 33 million to this end this year.



Forecast: Partly cloudy. Warmer than usual.

AROUND THE WORLD

	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	46	52	cloudy
Bahia	19	24	clear
Buenos Aires	19	24	clear
Chicago	46	52	cloudy
Copenhagen	46	52	cloudy
Helsinki	46	52	cloudy
London	46	52	cloudy
Los Angeles	12	18	cloudy
Madrid	46	52	cloudy
Moscow	46	52	cloudy
New York	46	52	cloudy
Paris	46	52	cloudy
Rome	46	52	cloudy
Stockholm	46	52	cloudy
Tel Aviv	18	24	cloudy
Tokyo	46	52	cloudy
Vienna	46	52	cloudy

Winning cards and numbers

In Yehuda's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, ten of hearts, nine of diamonds, and jack of clubs. In last night's weekly Loto drawing, the winning numbers were 3, 11, 20, 26, 36 and 38, and the additional number was 31.

1995 record for tourism

HAIM SHAPIRO

SOME 2.5 million tourists arrived in 1995, a record year for tourism that also saw a marked increase in arrivals through the country's land borders, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

In 1995, a total of 1,676,400 tourists entered the country by air, an increase of 12 percent over 1994, and there were 21,700 entries at the country's sea ports, a 17% rise. Some 516,000 tourists came into the country by land, 62% more than during 1994.

However, the bureau notes, some of these were tourists who had only a short time earlier left Israel. The number of cruise passengers who toured the country dropped last year from 329,800 to 315,000.

A total of 445,000 of the visitors in 1995 came from the US, or 20%, while the United Kingdom and Germany each sent about 218,000, some 10% each. About 175,000 came from France (8%) and there were 112,000 from the former Soviet Union (5%).

The Hotel Association also had a record 16 million bed nights, a growth of 13% compared with 1994. Income from the hotel branch amounted to NIS 3 billion, of which some 55% was foreign currency, or \$600 million.

Despite the continuing rise in the number of local people traveling abroad, Israeli tourists accounted for 6.5 million bed nights, an increase of 12% over last year.

Average room occupancy throughout the country was 68%, compared with 65% in 1994, with 78% occupancy in Eilat, 76% at the Dead Sea, 75% in Tel Aviv, 72% in Jerusalem, 65% in Tiberias, 63% in Netanya and 59% in Haifa.

The total number of hotel rooms by the end of the year was 35,000, with 7,700 in Jerusalem, 7,000 in Eilat, 4,800 in Tel Aviv, 3,900 in Tiberias, 1,900 in Netanya, 1,600 at the Dead Sea, and about 1,000 in Haifa. According to the Association, there was a considerable increase last year in the number of rooms in Eilat and by the end of this year Eilat will surpass Jerusalem as the location with the largest number of hotel rooms.

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